

## PROSELYTING PRINCIPLES

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### 1. Teach by the Spirit.

“And the Spirit shall be given unto you by the prayer of faith; and if ye receive not the Spirit ye shall not teach.” (D&C 42:14.)

a. Spirit Will Not Dwell in an Unclean Tabernacle. 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 6:19; 3 Nephi 27:19-21.

### 2. Law of Forgiveness.

a. Godly Sorrow for Sin.

b. Abandonment of Sin.

c. Confession of Sin.

(1) All sins—to the Lord.

(2) Serious sins, those involving moral turpitude, those warranting excommunication or disfellowshipment—to the Lord’s agent.

(3) Secret sins—in secret.

(4) Public sins—in public.

(5) Against an Individual—to the aggrieved party.

d. Restitution for Sin.

e. Obedience to whole gospel law.

“*Forgiveness*, which includes divine pardon and complete remission of sins, is available, on conditions of repentance, for all men except those who have sinned unto death. (D&C 42:18, 79; 64:7.) For such there is no forgiveness, neither in this world nor in the world to come. (D&C 76:32-34; 132:27; Matthew 12:31-32.) To accountable persons in the world, remission of sins come by repentance and baptism of water and of the Spirit. For those who have once been cleansed in this way and who thereafter commit sin—but not unto death—(and all members of the Church are guilty of sin, in either greater or lesser degree) the *law of forgiveness* embraces the following requirements:

“1. **GODLY SORROW FOR SIN.**—This includes an honest, heartfelt contrition of soul, a contrition born of a broken heart and a contrite spirit. It presupposes a frank, personal

acknowledgement that one's acts have been evil in the sight of Him who is holy. There is no mental reservation in godly sorrow, no feeling that perhaps one's sins are not so gross or serious after all. It is certainly more than regret either because the sin has been brought to light or because some preferential reward or status has been lost because of it. Paul said: 'Godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation, . . . but the sorrow of the world worketh death.' (2 Corinthians 7:10.)

"2. ABANDONMENT OF SIN.—This means to stop doing what is wrong, to cease completely from one's evil acts, to flee from iniquity both of thought, word, and deed. 'Put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes,' saith the Lord, 'cease to do evil; learn to do well.' (Isaiah 1:16-17.) 'By this ye may know if a man repenteth of his sins—behold, he will *confess* them and *forsake* them.' (D&C 58:43.)

"3. CONFESSION OF SIN.—To gain forgiveness all sins must be confessed to the Lord. The sinner must open his heart to the Almighty and with godly sorrow admit the error of his ways and plead for grace. '*I, the Lord, forgive sins unto those who confess their sins before me and ask forgiveness, who have not sinned unto death.*' (D&C 64:7.)

"Further, those sins which involve moral turpitude—meaning serious sins for which the court procedures of the Church could be instituted so that a person's fellowship or membership might be called in question--such sins must be confessed to the proper church officer. 'To whom should confession be made?' President Stephen L. Richards asked. '*To the Lord* of course, whose law has been violated. *To the aggrieved person or persons*, as an essential in making due retribution if that is necessary. And then certainly to the *Lord's representative*, his appointed judge in Israel, under whose ecclesiastical jurisdiction the offender lives and holds membership in the kingdom.'

"Is the offender justified in bypassing his immediate church authority and judge, and going to those who do not know him so well to make his confession? Almost universally, I think the answer should be No, for the local tribunals are in position to know the individual, his history and environs far better than those who have not had close contact with him, and in consequence the local authorities have a background which will enable them to pass judgment with more justice, and also mercy, than might be reasonably expected from any other source. It follows that it is the order of the Church for confession to be made to the bishop, which entails heavy and exacting responsibilities on the part of the bishop, the first of which is that every confession should be received and held in the utmost confidence. A bishop who violates such a sacred confidence is himself guilty of an offense before God and the Church. Where it becomes necessary to take counselors into his confidence, as it frequently does, and where it is necessary to organize tribunals, the bishop should inform the confessor, and if possible obtain his permission so to do.

"Why is confession essential? First, because the Lord has commanded it, and secondly, because the offender cannot live and participate in the kingdom of God, to receive the blessings therefrom, with a lie in his heart.

“‘Now the confessed offender is not left without hope, for he can obtain forgiveness by following the course outlined, and by forsaking sins comparable to that committed, as well as all other sin, and living before the Church and the Lord in such manner as to win approbation of both. The offender who has brought stigma and affront to the ward, the stake or the mission should seek the forgiveness of those he has thus offended. That may be had at times through the presiding authorities of the various divisions of the Church. At other times it may be appropriate and quite necessary to make amends for public offenses and seek forgiveness before organizations of the people. The judges of Israel will determine this matter.’ (Conference Reports, April 1954, pp. 10-13.)

“It should be clear that bishops and other church officers, when confessions are made to them, do not forgive sins except in the sense that they forgive them as far as the Church is concerned; they remit any penalty which the Church on earth might impose; they adjudge that repentant persons are worthy of full fellowship in the earthly kingdom.

“Normally a period of *probation* is involved before the earthly agent determines to refrain from instituting the procedures whereunder church penalties are imposed. ‘This probation serves a double purpose,’ President Richard says. ‘First, and perhaps most important, it enables the offender to determine for himself whether he has been able to so master himself as to trust himself in the face of ever-recurring temptation; and secondly, to enable the judges to make a more reliable appraisal of the genuineness of repentance and worthiness for restored confidence.’ (Conference Reports, April 1954, p. 12.)

“Actual and ultimate forgiveness comes only from the Lord in heaven. He of course on occasions forgave sins during his ministry (Matthew 9:2-8), and he has by revelation in modern times announced that certain persons were free from sin. (D&C 29:3; 31:5; 36:1; 50:36; 60:7.) The Prophet Enos received a personal revelation telling him his sins were forgiven. (Enos 4-8.) Similar revelations might come at any time to the Lord’s earthly agents, in which instances they could and would remit the sins of the repentant persons. But in the true sense it would be the Lord forgiving the sins, though he acted through the agency of his servants the prophets. (D&C 132:46-47; John 20:23.)

“This law of confession is not to be confused with the apostate perversion of the true doctrine as such is found in the degenerate practices of that great church which is not the Lord’s Church, that church which says: ‘Come unto me, and for your money you shall be forgiven of your sins.’ (Mormon 8:32.)

“4. RESTITUTION FOR SIN.—Restitution means restoration; it is to return the stolen property, to make amends for the offense committed, to repair the damage done, to compensate for hardships imposed by one’s acts. Ordinarily restitution is made to the aggrieved party, but full compliance with this requirement is not always possible; virtue destroyed cannot be brought back. Where literal and actual restitution cannot be made, still all possible compensation must be given so that the one seeking forgiveness will have complied with the law to the extent of his ability.

“5. OBEDIENCE TO ALL LAW.—Complete forgiveness is reserved for those only who turn their whole hearts to the Lord and begin to keep all of his commandments—not just those commandments disobeyed in the past, but those in all fields. ‘*He that repents and does the commandments of the Lord shall be forgiven.*’ (D&C 1:32.) ‘I will forgive you of your sins with this commandment—that you remain steadfast in your minds in solemnity and the spirit of prayer, in bearing testimony to all the world of those things which are communicated unto you.’ (D&C 84:61.)

“Necessarily a part of this full compliance with divine law includes forgiveness of one’s neighbor of his trespasses. (Luke 11:1-4; 3 Nephi 13:9-15.) ‘Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.’ (Matthew 6:9-15.) ‘*Forgive, and ye shall be forgiven.*’ (Luke 6:37.) ‘My disciples, in days of old, sought occasion against one another and forgave not one another in their hearts; and for this evil they were afflicted and sorely chastened. Wherefore, I say unto you, that ye ought to forgive one another: for he that forgiveth not his brother his trespasses standeth condemned before the Lord; for there remaineth in him the greater sin. *I, the Lord, will forgive whom I will forgive, but of you it is required to forgive all men.* And ye ought to say in your hearts—let God judge between me and thee, and reward thee according to thy deeds.’” (D&C 64:8-11; emphasis added.) (Bruce R. McConkie, *Mormon Doctrine*. pp. 271-274.)

### 3. Study the Gospel.

D&C 11:21; 84:85; 88:77-85.

### 4. Teach Plan of Salvation.

- a. Faith in Christ.
- b. Repentance.
- c. Baptism by a legal administrator.
- d. Gaining Gift of Holy Ghost.
- e. Enduring in righteousness to the end.

### 5. Present Message of the Restoration.

“Three great truths comprise the *message of the restoration* and must be accepted by all men in this day if they will save themselves in the kingdom of God: 1. That Jesus Christ is the literal Son of God, the Redeemer of the world, he through whom salvation comes for men in all ages; 2. that Joseph Smith is the revealer of the knowledge of Christ and of salvation in this age, that he was called to stand as a legal administrator and hold the keys of salvation for all men of this dispensation; and 3. that The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the Lord’s Church and kingdom on earth, ‘the only true and living

church upon the face of the whole earth' (D&C 1:30), the only organization having the power to teach the gospel and administer in its ordinances." (*Mormon Doctrine*, p. 441.)

6. Declare Glad Tidings (without debate).

"And thou shalt declare glad tidings, yea, publish it upon the mountains, and upon every high place, and among every people that thou shalt be permitted to see. And thou shalt do it with all humility, trusting in me, reviling not against revilers. And of tenets thou shalt not talk, but thou shalt declare repentance and faith on the Savior, and remission of sins by baptism and by fire, yea, even the Holy Ghost." (D&C 19:29-31.)

"Again I say, hearken ye elders of my church, whom I have appointed: Ye are not sent forth to be taught, but to teach the children of men the things which I have put into your hands by the power of my Spirit; And ye are to be taught from on high. Sanctify yourselves and ye shall be endowed with power, that ye may give even as I have spoken." (D&C 43:15-16.)

7. Raise the Warning Voice.

- a. Take every honorable opportunity to give every person a chance to accept the gospel and to escape the destruction that awaits the wicked. (D&C 38:41; 88:81.)
- b. Teach the first principles of the gospel to all who will heed the warning.

8. Center Teachings in Joseph Smith.

- a. "This generation shall have my word through you." (D&C 5:6.) Joseph Smith is the revealer of the doctrines of salvation in their purity and perfection, as for instance, the nature and kind of being that God is.
- b. Legal administrator with keys and powers to perform the ordinances of salvation.
- c. First Presidency hold keys of salvation. (D&C 112:20-33.)

9. Use the Book of Mormon in Teaching.

- a. "I told the brethren [the Twelve] that the Book of Mormon was the most correct of any book on earth, and the keystone of our religion, and a man would get nearer to God by abiding its precepts, than by any other book." (*History of the Church*, vol. 4, p. 461, Nov. 28, 1841.)
- b. Introduce subject from Bible; use Book of Mormon to explain it. (1) Acts 2:37-39 introduces 2 Nephi 31, and 3 Nephi 27:19-21.
- c. Conversion through the Book of Mormon.

“As far as the printed word is concerned, men gain a testimony that the message is true by studying the Book of Mormon. That book is a witness of the divinity of Christ; hence, anyone who gains the knowledge by revelation from the Holy Ghost that the Book of Mormon is true, also gains at the same time a testimony from the same source that Christ is the Lord. Now if the Book of Mormon is true, then Joseph Smith was a Prophet of God, for the book was translated from plates delivered to him by a resurrected being. And if Joseph Smith was ministered to by one resurrected personage, if he was commanded by revelation to translate the Book of Mormon, and if he was a Prophet, it follows that he received other revelations, that other messengers ministered to him, giving keys and authority, and that he was commanded to set up this Church and kingdom; and therefore, this is the Lord’s Church. Thus the whole message of the restoration stands or falls on the truth or falsity of the Book of Mormon.” (*Mormon Doctrine*, pp. 441-442.)

#### 10. Leave the Mysteries Alone.

Joseph Smith said: “Oh, ye elders of Israel, hearken to my voice, and when you are sent into the world to preach, tell those things you are sent to tell; preach and cry aloud, ‘Repent ye, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand; repent and believe the gospel.’ Declare the first principles, and let mysteries alone, lest ye be overthrown. Never meddle with the visions of beasts and subjects you do not understand.” (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, p. 292.)

#### 11. Teach First Principles of Gospel.

“It is given unto many to know the mysteries of God; nevertheless they are laid under a strict command that they shall not impart only according to the portion of his word which he doth grant unto the children of men. according to the heed and diligence which they give unto him. And therefore, he that will harden his heart, the same receiveth the lesser portion of the word; and he that will not harden his heart, to him is given the greater portion of the word, until it is given unto him to know the mysteries of God until he knows them in full. And they that will harden their hearts, to them is given the lesser portion of the word until they know nothing concerning his mysteries; and then they are taken captive by the devil, and led by his will down to destruction. Now this is what is meant by the chains of hell.” (Alma 12:9-11.)

“And again, the elders, priests and teachers of this church shall teach the principles of my gospel, which are in the Bible and the Book of Mormon, in the which is the fulness of the gospel. And they shall observe the covenants and church articles to do them, and these shall be their teachings, as they shall be directed by the Spirit.” (D&C 42:12-13.)

“And let them journey from thence preaching the word by the way, saying none other things than that which the prophets and apostles have written, and that which is taught them by the Comforter through the prayer of faith.” (D&C 52:9.)

Among others, the following are the first principles of the gospel:

- a. Nature and kind of being that God is; his character, perfections, and attributes; his personality; the Godhead.
- b. Atoning sacrifice of Christ.
- c. Fall of Adam.
- d. Plan of salvation, including faith, repentance, baptism, receipt of the Holy Ghost, and enduring in righteousness to the end.
- e. Divine mission of Joseph Smith.
- f. Authority in the ministry.
- g. Restoration of the gospel.
- h. Coming forth of the Book of Mormon.
- i. Church organization.
- j. Gifts of the Spirit.
- k. Latter-day revelation.
- l. Gathering of Israel.

## 12. Qualifications for Missionaries.

“Now behold, a marvelous work is about to come forth among the children of men. Therefore, O ye that embark in the service of God, see that ye serve him with all your heart, might, mind and strength, that ye may stand blameless before God at the last day. Therefore, if ye have desires to serve God ye are called to the work; For behold the field is white already to harvest; and lo, he that thrusteth in his sickle with his might, the same layeth up in store that he perisheth not, but bringeth salvation to his soul; And faith, hope, charity and love, with an eye single to the glory of God, qualify him for the work. Remember faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, brotherly kindness, godliness, charity, humility, diligence. Ask, and ye shall receive; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. Amen.” (D&C 4.)

## 13. Diligence and Valiance Required.

“Contend thou, therefore, morning by morning; and day after day let thy warning voice go forth; and when the night cometh let not the inhabitants of the earth slumber, because of thy speech.” (D&C 112:5.)

“Wherefore, now let every man learn his duty, and to act in the office in which he is appointed, in all diligence. He that is slothful shall not be counted worthy to stand, and he that learns not his duty and shows himself not approved shall not be counted worthy to stand. Even so. Amen.” (D&C 107:99-100.)

#### 14. Rewards of Missionary Work.

a. Faith, testimony, conversion, etc.

b. Forgiveness of sins. (D&C 84:61-62.)

c. Eternal life.

“Behold, the field is white already to harvest; therefore, whoso desireth to reap, let him thrust in his sickle with his might, and reap while the day lasts, that he may treasure up for his soul everlasting salvation in the kingdom of God.” (D&C 6:3.)

“Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together.” (John 4:35-36.)

“Hearken, O ye who have given your names to go forth to proclaim my gospel, and to prune my vineyard. Behold, I say unto you that it is my will that you should go forth and not tarry, neither be idle but labor with your might—Lifting up your voices as with the sound of a trumpet, proclaiming the truth according to the revelations and commandments which I have given you. And thus, if ye are faithful ye shall be laden with many sheaves, and crowned with honor, and glory, and immortality, and eternal life.” (D&C 75:2-5.)

### RESTORATION OF THE GOSPEL

Each missionary be prepared to speak six or seven minutes on any of the following Biblical texts:

#### 1. Genesis 49:22, 26.

Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; whose branches run over the wall: . . . The blessings of thy father have prevailed above the blessings of my progenitors unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills: they shall be on the heads of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of him that was separate from his brethren.

#### 2. Psalms 85:8-11.

I will hear what God the Lord will speak: for he will speak peace unto his people, and to his saints: but let them not turn again to folly. Surely his salvation is nigh them that fear him; that glory may dwell in our land. Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness



and peace have kissed each other. Truth shall spring out of the earth; and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

3. Isaiah 2:2-5.

And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountains of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come ye, and let us walk in the light of the Lord.

4. Isaiah 5:26.

And he will lift up an ensign to the nations from far, and will hiss unto them from the end of the earth: and, behold, they shall come with speed swiftly.

Isaiah 11:10-12.

And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious. And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.

Isaiah 18:2b-3.

Go, ye swift messengers, to a nation scattered and peeled, to a people terrible from their beginning hitherto; a nation meted out and trodden down, whose land the rivers have spoiled! All ye inhabitants of the world, and dwellers on the earth, see ye, when he lifteth up an ensign on the mountains; and when he bloweth a trumpet, hear ye.

5. Isaiah 29:14.

Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvelous work among this people, even a marvelous work and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid.

6. Jeremiah 31:31-34.

Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the Lord: But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: for I will forgive their iniquity., and I will remember their sin no more.

7. Jeremiah 32:37-40.

Behold, I will gather them out of all countries, whither I have driven them in mine anger, and in my fury, and in great wrath; and I will bring them again unto this place, and I will cause them to dwell safely: And they shall be my people, and I will be their God: And I will give them one heart, and one way, that they may fear me for ever, for the good of them, and of their children after them: And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me.

8. Ezekiel 37:15-20.

The word of the Lord came again unto me, saying, Moreover, thou son of man, take thee one stick, and write upon it, For Judah, and for the children of Israel his companions: then take another stick, and write upon it, For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and for all the house of Israel his companions: And join them one to another into one stick; and they shall become one in thy hand. And when the children of thy people shall speak unto thee, saying, Wilt thou not show us what thou meanest by these? Say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel his fellows, and will put them with him, even with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they shall be one in mine hand. And the sticks whereon thou writest shall be in thine hand before their eyes.

9. Daniel 2:44.

And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a “kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

10. Amos 3:7.

Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.

11. Malachi 3:1.

Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts.

12. Matthew 17:10-11.

And his disciples asked him, saying, Why then say the scribes that Elias must first come? And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things.

13. Matthew 24:14.

And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

14. Acts 1:6b.

Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

15. Acts 3:19-21.

Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

16. Romans 11:25-27.

For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.

17. Ephesians 1:10.

That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him.

18. Revelation 14:6-7.

And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.