

All of Mormonism is a mix of Christian language and doctrinal inventions of modern-day Mormon leaders. It can be a tempting brew.

**OUR LAST PAPER** ([P.S. #18](#)), looked at **the Mormon plan of salvation** as described by a Mormon “apostle,” Dallin H. Oaks. Here is more\* about that plan:

**Step 1.** You, a pre-mortal spirit offspring of heavenly parents, made your first move toward eternal life long before creation, when you chose to experience mortality. Challenged by temptations and away from the heavenly parents, you would exercise “free agency,” trying to “choose the right” and prove yourself worthy enough to return to heaven and live again with your Father and Mother.

**Step 2.** Your mortal life began when your adult spirit was transferred into your embryonic physical body. You have not always made right choices, but your sins can be forgiven because of Christ’s sacrifice, assuming you repent and faithfully execute other requirements for the rest of your mortal life.

**Step 3.** After death you will have opportunities to improve yourself further. Those things you want to do, but cannot do as a spirit, like a literal water baptism and marriage under Mormon priesthood authority, can be done on your behalf by living Mormons.

**Step 4.** Eventually, after all of your brothers and sisters from pre-mortal life have passed through mortality and joined you in the post-mortal spirit world, you and they will be resurrected, judged on individual histories of desires, choices, and performance, and assigned to one of three kingdoms, each with greater or lesser glory, opportunities, and experiences.

*\*We added these “steps” to clarify Mormon theories of endless personal existence. Some Mormons imagine a **Step 5**: Resurrected beings might earn advancement from one level of glory to another.*

#### **A Mormon theory: the short history of apostleship**

Not long after Christ’s death, all legitimate apostles died. They were not replaced, and for most of the Christian era, no true, authorized Christian leaders were on earth. But in 1829, Peter, James, and John visited Joseph Smith and a friend in the United States to ordain them as apostles. Powers of apostleship have been sustained exclusively among Mormons by the laying on of hands.

IN **ANOTHER MESSAGE**, the same Mormon “apostle,” Dallin H. Oaks explained that you don’t understand Christ and His Atonement if you use the Bible, and nothing else. He said “...our fellow believers in Christ,”

as he calls Christians, “have only the Bible to explain” them. In his religion, he said, the Book of Mormon is, “the keystone in our witness of Jesus Christ,” adding that the book, unheard of until published in 1830, explains essential Christian doctrines more fully “than any of its forebears.”

The Book of Mormon “contains the fulness of the everlasting gospel in greater clarity than any other scripture.” It was “written for our day,” and we “[need it] more urgently than ever,” he said.

Oaks then explained how Mormon prophets think their followers can be redeemed/saved/justified: There is the Atonement, of course, but to supplement Christ’s sacrifice, to make it effective, one must also obey “laws and ordinances of the Gospel.”\*

Other Mormon apostles have said it even more clearly. [Henry B. Eyring, now serving as one of three presidents of his church](#), said — citing John 3:16-17, no less — “keeping God’s commandments...qualifies us for the gift of eternal life.”

\*Nowhere has the Mormon church explained what might be all “the laws and ordinances of the Gospel,” which must be obeyed to gain eternal life. Among them, however, some are well known, ranging from what one may not drink (coffee and tea, for example); to belief in Joseph Smith and the prophets and apostles who succeeded him; to detailed regulation of weddings and the rearing of children.

#### **Who do Mormon apostles think they are?**

I claim, with my Brethren the Apostles, to be a special witness of the Lord Jesus Christ. ...My witness, and that of my Brethren, is true. We know the Lord. He is no stranger to [us.] His prophets, seers, and revelators.

[Boyd K. Packer](#)

president of the church’s Quorum of the Twelve Apostles  
until his death in July 2015

Many additional papers examining the Mormon religion are available at the Immanuel Bible Church website. One brief paper touches on Mormon doctrines such as:

- Multiple Gods
- The church of the Devil
- Prehistoric existence of the Mormon church
- Adam was acquaintance with Christ
- People called Christians centuries B.C. knew John would write The Revelation in the Bible, for example, and the Mormon church would restore truth. See: <http://immanuelbible.net/images/ibc/mission/moq/moq1902.pdf>