

March 18–24  
2 Nephi 31–33  
"This is the Way"



# Overview

## Evan A. Schmutz

Nephi was in the process of finishing his last engraving on the record. He wrote, ‘And now, my beloved brethren, I make an end of my sayings’ (2 Nephi 30:18). But soon after, the Spirit urged Nephi to return to his record and write a concluding message.... ‘Wherefore, the things... I have written sufficeth me, save it be a few words... I must speak concerning the doctrine of Christ’ (2 Nephi 31:2).

“How eternally grateful we are for those ‘few words’ and for the Spirit compelling Nephi to write them. Nephi’s treatise on the doctrine of Christ is a treasure to those who feast upon it.” (CR, April 2023)



# Baptism

2 Nephi 31:4-11

What reasons are given that it was essential even for Christ to be baptized?

## Robert D. Hales

“Jesus was baptized to fulfill His Father’s commandment that sons and daughters of God should be baptized. He set the example for all of us to humble ourselves before our Heavenly Father. We are all welcome to come into the waters of baptism. He was baptized to witness to His Father that He would be obedient in keeping His commandments. He was baptized to show us that we should receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” (CR, Oct. 2000)



# Baptism

2 Nephi 31:13

How does Nephi describe the focus that we must apply to follow Christ and receive the baptism of fire?

## Joseph B. Wirthlin

“Nephi taught that we must walk the path of faith 'with full purpose of heart, acting no hypocrisy and no deception before God.' We know that 'a double minded man is unstable in all his ways' and that we cannot 'serve two masters.'

“The Lord requireth the heart and a willing mind.'... The Savior declared that the first and great commandment is, 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.' Only when we give our all and overcome our pride and walk the path of faith without deviation can we honestly sing, 'Lord, accept our true devotion.'” (CR, April 1997)



# The Holy Ghost

## 2 Nephi 31:12

What must we do before we can receive the gift of the Holy Ghost from the Father?

After we have receive the gift of the Holy Ghost what must we do to retain it?

What are some of the blessings that we can receive if we live so the Holy Ghost will be our constant companion?

## Joseph Smith

"There is a difference between the Holy Ghost and the gift of the Holy Ghost. Cornelius received the Holy Ghost before he was baptized, which was the convincing power of God unto him of the truth of the Gospel, but he could not receive the gift of the Holy Ghost until after he was baptized. Had he not taken this sign or ordinance upon him, the Holy Ghost which convinced him of the truth of God would have left him. Until he obeyed these ordinances and received the gift of the Holy Ghost, by the laying on of hands, according to the order of God." (HC 4:555)



## Joseph Fielding Smith

“I believe... that we have a great many members of this Church who have never received a manifestation through the Holy Ghost.... Therefore, a great many members of the Church do not have that guidance, Then some cunning, crafty individual will come along teaching that which is not true, and without the guidance which is promised to us through our faithfulness, people are unable to discern and are led astray. It depends on our faithfulness and our obedience to the commandments of the Lord if we have the teachings, the enlightening instruction, that comes from the Holy Ghost. When we are disobedient, when our minds are set upon the things of this world rather than on the things of the kingdom of God, we cannot have the manifestations of the Holy Ghost.” (BYU Speeches of the Year, 25 Oct. 1961)

## Parley P. Pratt

“The gift of the Holy Spirit... inspires virtue, kindness, goodness, tenderness, gentleness, and charity.... It develops and invigorates all the faculties of the physical and intellectual man.... In short, it is, as it were, marrow to the bone, joy to the heart, light to the eyes, music to the ears, and life to the whole being.” (Key to the Science of Theology, pg. 96-97)



## Bruce R. McConkie

“By the power of the Holy Ghost -- who is the Sanctifier -- dross iniquity, carnality, sensuality, and every evil thing is burned out of the repentant soul as if by fire; the cleansed person becomes literally a new creature of the Holy Ghost. He is born again.

“The baptism of fire is not something in addition to the receipt of the Holy Ghost; rather, it is the actual enjoyment of the gift which is offered by the laying on of hands at the time of baptism. ‘Remission of sins,’ the Lord says, comes ‘by baptism and by fire, yea, even the Holy Ghost.’ (D. & C. 19:31)” (Mormon Doctrine, pg.73)

# Strait and Narrow Path

2 Nephi 31:17-18

What must we do enter the gate that puts us on the strait and narrow path?



## Bruce R. McConkie

"When we come out of the world and join the Church, when we become members of this kingdom, we get on a path which is named the 'strait and narrow path.' Membership in the Church starts us out toward a goal which is called eternal life. Baptism is not an end in itself; it is the beginning of the process of working out our salvation with fear and trembling before the Lord."  
(CR, Oct. 1955)

# Strait and Narrow Path

2 Nephi 31:19-20

What are some of the things that we must do to progress along the path?



## Neal A. Maxwell

"The... imagery of pressing forward suggests... earnestness and energy and not a passive stroll.... The imagery also emphasizes a direction-forward, not side trips and detours.... Pressing forward suggests an enthusiastic, relentless progress along the path, 'with a steadfastness in Christ.'" (Wherefore Ye Must Press Forward, pg. 34)

## Russell M. Nelson

“To feast means more than to taste. To feast means to savor. We savor the scriptures by studying them in a spirit of delightful discovery and faithful obedience. When we feast upon the words of Christ, they... become an integral part of our nature.” (CR, Oct. 2000)



# Strait and Narrow Path

2 Nephi 32:1-5

How do we learn about what it takes to progress along the path?

## Jorge F. Zeballos

“If we are to do God’s will, if we are to be responsible to Him, we must begin by learning, understanding, accepting, and living according to His will for us.... Having the desire to do what is right is not enough if we do not make sure to understand what our Father expects from us and wants us to do....

"We know that the path that leads to the 'tree, whose fruit [is] desirable to make one happy' [and] 'the way, which leadeth unto life'—is narrow. It takes effort to journey along the path, and 'few there be that find it.'

"Nephi teaches us that 'the words of Christ will tell you all things what ye should do.' Then he adds that 'the Holy Ghost ... will show unto you all things what ye should do.' Thus, the sources that allow us to learn our duty are the words of Christ that we receive through ancient and modern prophets and the personal revelation that we receive through the Holy Ghost." (CR, April, 2015)



# Strait and Narrow Path

2 Nephi 31:15-16

## Joseph B. Wirthlin

“Enduring to the end is the doctrine of continuing on the path leading to eternal life after one has entered into the path through faith, repentance, baptism, and receiving the Holy Ghost. Enduring to the end requires our whole heart....

“Enduring to the end means that we have planted our lives firmly on gospel soil, staying in the mainstream of the Church, humbly serving our fellow men, living Christlike lives, and keeping our covenants. Those who endure are balanced, consistent, humble, constantly improving, and without guile. Their testimony is not based on worldly reasons—it is based on truth, knowledge, experience, and the Spirit.” (CR, Oct. 2004)



# Strait and Narrow Path

2 Nephi 33:10

## Ezra Taft Benson

“We hardly fathom the power of the Book of Mormon, nor the divine role it must play, nor the extent to which it must be moved....

“[God] has revealed to me the absolute need for us to move the Book of Mormon forward now in a marvelous manner. You must help with this burden and with this blessing which He has placed on the whole Church.”  
(CR, Oct. 1988)



Next Lesson:

April 1–7

Jacob 1–4

"Be Reconciled Unto God Through the  
Atonement of Christ"

