

Grace for Grace
RS-PH 5th Sunday Lesson
10-30-2005 - Mike Baird

The Challenge To Become.....	1
Christ - Grace for Grace	2
Us - Grace for Grace	3
We sometimes get lost & discouraged	4
Ideas and suggestions:	4

The Challenge To Become

- 1 Nephi 15:33
"...and if their works have been filthiness they must needs be filthy; and if they be filthy it must needs be that they cannot dwell in the kingdom of God; if so, the kingdom of God must be filthy also"
- Mormon 9:13
" And then cometh the judgment of the Holy One upon them; and then cometh the time that he that is filthy shall be filthy still; and he that is righteous shall be righteous still;"
- Elder Dallin H Oaks:
"From such teachings we conclude that the Final Judgment is not just an evaluation of a sum total of good and evil acts--what we have done. It is an acknowledgment of the final effect of our acts and thoughts--what we have become. It is not enough for anyone just to go through the motions. The commandments, ordinances, and covenants of the gospel are not a list of deposits required to be made in some heavenly account. The gospel of Jesus Christ is a plan that shows us *how to become what our Heavenly Father desires us to become.*" ("The Challenge to Become," Ensign, Nov. 2000, 32)
- **What is it "our Heavenly Father desires us to become"?**
- **As in all things Christ is our example**
- **Was Christ born "perfect"? Was he born "as we are to become"?**

Christ - Grace for Grace

- Christ was sinless – grace was not for compensation of sin
- Grace for grace and suffering to empower personal growth
 - Hebrews 5:8-9
"being made perfect"
 - Luke 13:32
"the third day I shall be perfected"
 - Elder Russel M Nelson:
"... let us consider another highly significant statement made by the Lord. Just prior to his crucifixion, he said that on "the third day I shall be perfected." Think of that! The sinless, errorless Lord—already perfect by our mortal standards—proclaimed his own state of perfection yet to be in the future. His eternal perfection would follow his resurrection and receipt of "all power ... in heaven and in earth." The perfection that the Savior envisions for us is much more than errorless performance. It is the eternal expectation as expressed by the Lord in his great intercessory prayer to his Father—that we might be made perfect and be able to dwell with them in the eternities ahead." ("Perfection Pending," Ensign, Nov. 1995, 86)
 - D&C 93:12-13
"grace for grace"
 - Bruce Hafen:
"Jesus taught that we should be perfect as he is perfect. His experience suggests that his own developmental process was marked by his being a recipient of the Father's divine grace. His experience also shows that being free from sin is not the same thing as attaining a state of perfection." (The Broken Heart, p. 164.)
- Christ moved from a sinless (neutral) to a "completed" (exalted) state receiving grace for grace

Us - Grace for Grace

- Our relationship to Father can mirror Christ's!
 - D&C 93:19-20
"grace for grace "
- However we move negative -> neutral -> positive
 - Bruce Hafen:
"We grow in two ways—removing negative weeds and cultivating positive flowers. The Savior's grace blesses both parts—if we do our part. First and repeatedly we must uproot the weeds of sin and bad choices. It isn't enough just to mow the weeds. Yank them out by the roots, repenting fully to satisfy the conditions of mercy. But being forgiven is only part of our growth. We are not just paying a debt. Our purpose is to become celestial beings. So once we've cleared our heartland, we must continually plant, weed, and nourish the seeds of divine qualities. And then as our sweat and discipline stretch us to meet His gifts, "the flow'rs of grace appear," like hope and meekness" ("The Atonement: All for All," Ensign, May 2004, 97)
- What is it that enables us to move from negative -> positive?
- What is this state called?
- Negative -> neutral: *Atonement* and our repentance free us from sin (neutral state) (see justification – "[Justification & Sanctification – Outline](#)" by Mike Baird)
- What is it that enables us to move from neutral -> positive?
- Neutral -> positive: *Atoning* grace can move us beyond remission of sins to perfection
 - Moroni 10:32-33
"perfected in him... by the grace of God, through the shedding of the blood of Christ "
 - D&C 76:69
"Just men made perfect "
 - Bruce Hafen:
"Through the Holy Ghost, the Atonement makes possible certain spiritual endowments that actually purify our nature and enable us to live a more "eternal" or Godlike life." (Beauty for Ashes: The Atonement of Jesus Christ," Ensign, Apr. 1990, pg 7.)
 - Charity & Hope are both endowments of grace

We sometimes get lost & discouraged

- Focus on the journey and not the goal
 - Become focused on the what
- Sometimes we become discouraged
- Sometimes we come to loath ourselves for our weaknesses
 - "because I'm not perfect"

Ideas and suggestions:

(for maintaining a balance between mortal realities and immortal goals)

- Ideas for how we can not lose proper perspective?
- Atoning grace & spiritual gifts are available now not after perfection
- Keep the Atonement at work in our lives
- Feelings of failure or inadequacy are common and natural to most people
- Bad Hair days happen
- Avoid unrealistic expectations
- Perfection is not an event – it is a process
- Our progress should be steady and consistent
- Lord looks not only on actions but desires of our hearts
- After we have done all we can, don't stress over things we can not control
- Control Yourself Gently Instead of Harshly
- Replace fear with faith
- Scriptures show people who stumbled but went on toward perfection
- It is who Satan whispers – "If you are not perfect you're failing"
- Be careful about trying to measure your spirituality by external indicators