

Preparing for the Melchizedek Priesthood

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Intro - Preparation

- Olympic preparation
 - Marveled at the dedication it takes
 - Goal – participate and possibly win a medal
 - Medalists will tell you it was worth the dedication, planning and effort
- Discuss a different goal
 - Takes dedication, planning and effort
 - To my mind a higher and more worthy goal than the olympics
- Preparing and becoming a worthy bearer of the MP
 - Not that other goals are not good or even important
- How you ask – surely being an Olympic gold medalist is far greater than be an worthy MP holder – a father, a husband, a missionary that holds the MP?
 - The answer has to do with what is of eternal worth?
 - Olympic fame will fade
 - You can't take a gold medal with you when you die
 - Is fame and glory a pre-requisite to heaven?
 - I don't remember it in any of the Savior's teachings – opposite in fact
- Being an Olympic medalist is about self or maybe team
- Being a MP holder is not about me at all
 - It is about something other than self,
 - Something higher than self
 - Christ is the example of someone who was about other than self and something higher than self

Preparatory Priesthood

- First to you Aaronic Priesthood holders
- Moses held the Melchizedek Priesthood
 - Tried to sanctify his people
 - But the children of Israel hardened their hearts
- D&D 84:25-26
Therefore, he took Moses out of their midst, and the Holy Priesthood also;
And the lesser priesthood continued, which priesthood holdeth the **key of the ministering of angels and the preparatory gospel**;
 - What is the preparatory gospel?
 - Gospel of repentance and of baptism, and the remission of sins
 - Look to John the Baptist to understand
 - John held this preparatory priesthood the - same priesthood you hold
 - He used this priesthood to prepare the way of the savior he said:
 - Luke 3:16
I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire
- This is the doctrinal meaning of the Aaronic Priesthood holding the key to the preparatory Gospel
 - The Aaronic Priesthood is the preparatory priesthood because its ordinances - baptism for the remission of sins – prepare one to receive the ordinances of the Melchizedek Priesthood – Gift of the Holy Ghost (baptism of fire) and Temple ordinances, which ordinances are necessary to become like the Savior.

Preparatory Priesthood holders

- The second meaning of the Aaronic Priesthood being a preparatory priesthood is that in the same way the ordinances prepare the person receiving them to receive the ordinances of the Melchizedek priesthood
- Bearing, serving, performing the ordinances of the Aaronic Priesthood prepare us to become Melchizedek Priesthood holders who can serve and perform the ordinances of the MP
- Though referred to as the lesser priesthood - Aaronic Priesthood is no small thing
 - Same priesthood John the Baptist held
 - Baptism and repentance of our sins is not about medals in an athletic competition
 - It is about something bigger

Purposes of the Aaronic Priesthood

- We can see how the Aaronic Priesthood prepares us for the Melchizedek Priesthood in the Purposes of the Aaronic Priesthood
 - As stated in Handbook 2 section 8
- Purposes of the Aaronic Priesthood
 1. Become converted to the gospel of Jesus Christ and live by its teachings.
 - a. What does converted mean?
 - b. Not the same as believing
 - c. Convert means to change
 2. Serve faithfully in priesthood callings and fulfill the responsibilities of priesthood offices.
 - a. As we learn to fulfill our responsibilities in the Aaronic Priesthood we prepare for MP service
 - b. line upon line
 - c. master of a little – become master of more
 3. Give meaningful service.
 - a. MP is about something other than self
 - i. service to others
 - b. You will never regret doing service for someone
 - i. Nancy and hospital
 - ii. It may not be fun but it is always worth it
 4. Prepare and live worthily to receive the Melchizedek Priesthood and temple ordinances.
 - a. To have power in your priesthood you must be worthy
 - b. Powers of heaven handled only on the principle of righteousness
 - c. Paramount that we are worthy
 5. Prepare to serve an honorable full-time mission.
 6. Obtain as much education as possible.
 7. Prepare to become a worthy husband and father.
 8. Give proper respect to women, girls, and children.
- **So How do you prepare** – follow these purposes
- You have to choose and do it
- If you will consistently do these things you will be prepared

Speak to the MP holders

- Parents and leaders help young men accomplish these objectives in family home evenings, family scripture study, meetings, activities, and interviews and by encouraging them to participate in the Duty to God program (see [8.12](#)).
- If you are a young men leader, EQP, HPGL or a parent you have a direct calling to prepare AP holders to become MP holders
- Rest of us might say I'm not one of those – I'm off the hook...
- Regardless if you choose to be or not...
- You are teaching the Aaronic Priesthood holders in your ward and helping prepare them to be MP holder
 - How – simply by being a MP you are an example to them
 - And they are watching and learning from your example
 - What kind of Home teacher you are
 - How you speak and feel about the priesthood
 - How you speak about Priesthood leaders
 - How you do service or not
- My father most influential for me
 - I don't remember much of what he said I do remember what he did
 - He set an example of magnifying his calling as a MP holder
 - Taught me about serving
 - Picking fruit
 - Sprinklers and corn
 - Home teaching
 - Father's blessings
 - Blessings of healings

Priesthood Keys

- Bishop – President of the Aaronic Priesthood
 - All Aaronic Priesthood ordinances under his direction
 - We may have authority but can't do unless authorized to do so
 - Driver's license
- Stake President – President of the Melchizedek Priesthood
 - All Melchizedek Priesthood ordinances under his direction
 - Authority but not authorized
 - We always have authorization to bless others
 - Fathers, comfort, healing

Process for Receiving the MP

- President Wight as the presiding HP in stake with keys
 - All MP ordination under his direction
- President Wight works closely with your bishop
 - Monthly PPI
- Bishop considers person for receiving MP
 - Things that possibly key this
 - YM 18 yrs+ old
 - Mission, college etc
 - Newer member of the church – sufficient spiritual maturity and worthiness
 - Re-activated Adult Aaronic priesthood holder
 - Preparing for the temple
- Bishop discusses candidate with President Wight
- Bishop interviews for preparedness and worthiness and submit to Stake Presidency
- Member of Stake Presidency interview (typically Pres Baird)
 - I'll make a recommendation to President Wight
- High Council approval
- Sustained
 - Stake Conf, Stake MP
- Ordained under the direction of President Wight
 - Typically delegated to a member of the High Council or Stake Presidency
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Becoming like the Savior

- Being a Priesthood holder is about something other than self
- The goal we have here is to become like the savior
- As we use the priesthood to bless and serve others
 - In turn we are blessed
- Joseph Smith:
"If you would elevate others, the very work itself will exalt you"
- As we use the priesthood to lift others
 - In turn we are lifted
- In this life we don't do so that we can score points and win enough medals to make it into heaven
- It is by doing that we become – become like the savior
- As we prepare and then choose to be worthy MP holders and do as the Savior would have us do we become like him
- Brethren of the Aaronic Priesthood
 - This is no small thing you are involved with
 - It is not something to be taken lightly
 - By serving in the AP you are helping others to prepare for the ordinances of the MP
 - At the same time you are preparing yourself to be a MP holder
 - Preparing for the MP is among the most important things you can do
- While you are the most important part of this preparation
- Lord has given you Adults – leaders, parents and other MP holders to help and guide you

Close

- Grateful to those who helped me prepare for the MP
- Grateful to Heavenly Father to be entrusted with this calling
- I feel and testify that the MP is about something other than self for something higher than self