

Water, Spirit and Blood¹

Summary Statement

Moses 6:60

For by the water ye keep the commandment; by the Spirit ye are justified, and by the blood ye are sanctified;

The Water

Moses 6:60 ... by the water ye keep the commandment ...

From the Guide to the Scriptures: Purify²: Free from sin or guilt, blameless.

When we are baptized we enter into a covenant to keep His commandments³. “If you love me, keep my commandments.⁴” and “obedience is the first law of heaven⁵.” This is the black and white rule to obey every single commandment and repent if we do not. We receive blessings from Heaven when we do and when we do not, the Light of Christ will try to help us see and admit our error for the purpose of making change⁶.

The Spirit

Moses 6:60...by the Spirit ye are justified ...

Encyclopedia of Mormonism: God treating a person as being “not guilty” of sin. Justification directly opens the way to sanctification by establishing a “right” relationship of mortals with God.

After having some life experiences we sometimes find that there are competing commandments. E.g. my non-member father’s funeral is on Sunday and in such a location and venue to force me to choose

¹ See Turning Freud Upside Down: Part 2; Sorrow, Suffering, and Evil-Is There Reason to Hope? By Robert L. Gleave

² The Bible Dictionary entry for “conversion” expressly ties the first four principles of the gospel and continued faithfulness to changing a person from a natural man to a ... born again, purified person.

³ D&C 20:77

⁴ John 14:15

⁵ Doctrines of the Gospel Teacher Manual, Chapter 17: Obedience, a Law of Heaven

⁶ Encyclopedia of Mormonism, Light of Christ

between keeping the commandment of attending my Sacrament and Priesthood meetings or honoring my father and my widowed mother.

Nephi was commanded, as we all are, not to kill, but was instructed to slay Laban to save a nation. Abraham was instructed by the Spirit to sacrifice his “only” son. In each case we need to be prayerful and in tune with deity so that the action we take is justified by the Spirit. We must not do our own will but do our Father’s will.

The Blood

Moses 6:60 ... by the blood ye are sanctified;

Encyclopedia of Mormonism: Sanctification is the process of becoming a saint, holy and spiritually clean and pure, by purging all sin from the soul [and changing our character to be more Christ-like].

The blood of our Savior was shed in Gethsemane and on the cross to bring to pass the Resurrection and Exaltation (for those who qualify.) It is better if we view our trials as opportunities to become closer to the Lord and our loved ones. We should respond to our trials by utilizing them to refine us and be for our own good⁷. The conclusion of changing our character seems to be, to be filled with charity, the pure love of Christ. If we do not have charity, we are nothing⁸. If we are nothing, we cannot be a Saint or Holy. Therefore we must have charity.

A mortal being filled with charity is like an iceberg. On the surface, the words are straightforward, simple and clear, but underneath is the challenge of a lifetime for most people. For a mortal to love everyone and treat everyone as the Savior does, often requires a herculean effort.

By Dean Bender, bender.mft@gmail.com

⁷ D&C 122:7

⁸ Moroni 7:44