Basic Principles of Orally Communicating the Gospel as Found in the Doctrine and Covenants

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BASIC PRINCIPLES OF ORALLY COMMUNICATING THE GOSPEL
AS FOUND IN THE DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS

A Thesis
Presented to the
Department of Communications
Brigham Young University

In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Arts

by
Reed A. Benson
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This thesis, by Reed A. Benson, is accepted in its present form by the Department of Communications of Brigham Young University as satisfying the thesis requirement for the degree of Master of Arts.

J. LaVar Bateman, Committee Chairman

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Typed by Sharon Ann Bird
To My

Noble Mother

Flora Amussen Benson

Righteous Teacher

Preacher of Righteousness

Speaker with the Spirit
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Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

JUSTIFICATION AND PURPOSE OF THIS STUDY

The gospel of Jesus Christ is the plan of salvation. It embraces all of the laws, principles, doctrines, rites, ordinances, acts, powers, authorities, and keys necessary to save and exalt men in the highest heaven hereafter. It is the covenant of salvation which the Lord makes with men on earth.

... In the broadest sense, all truth is part of the gospel; for all truth is helpful to progression and advancement. But in the high spiritual sense in which the term is used in the revelations, the gospel is concerned with those particular religious truths by conformity to which men can sanctify and cleanse their own souls, thus gaining for themselves salvation in the eternal worlds.¹

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is made up of a vast lay ministry of members who of necessity must be called upon to orally communicate the gospel through speaking, teaching and preaching.

This awesome responsibility of orally communicating this most essential message might well prompt some

¹Bruce R. McConkie, Mormon Doctrine (2nd ed.; Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1966), p. 206. This defines gospel in the way it will be used in this thesis.
crucial questions. Has the Lord given any instructions as to personal worthiness on the part of the bearer of his message? Are there certain things that one must know before orally communicating the gospel? Must one have authority from God before assuming to speak in behalf of the Lord? What are the oral means to be used in communicating and what is the message to be communicated? Is there a manner in which this message is to be given? And of most vital importance--when delivering this heavenly message does one need and how can one get divine help?

To help resolve these crucial questions, the members of the Church\(^2\) and the world in general have been blessed with a new volume of scripture:

That volume of latter-day scripture which contains selections from the revelations given to Joseph Smith and his successors in the Presidency of the Church is called the *Doctrine and Covenants* . . . Perhaps no other book is of such great worth to the saints as is the Doctrine and Covenants. It is their book, the voice of God in their day. The revelations therein are true, and men are commanded to search them (D&C 1:37-39).\(^3\)

It is the purpose of this study to "search" this volume of scripture of "such great worth" for our "day,"

\(^2\)Church in this study will refer to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

\(^3\)McConkie, *Mormon Doctrine*, p. 206.
to determine as clearly and completely as possible what the Doctrine and Covenants reveals as basic principles of orally communicating that most important of all messages—the gospel.

REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

There was no work that could be discovered that examined the entire Doctrine and Covenants for principles of orally communicating the gospel. There were, however, two works which the writer particularly relied on which gave commentary from the prophets on various passages of the Doctrine and Covenants: *Doctrine and Covenants Commentary*<sup>4</sup> by Hyrum M. Smith and Janne M. Sjodahl, and *The Latter-day Prophets and the Doctrine and Covenants*<sup>5</sup> by Roy W. Doxey. *Doctrine and Covenants Compendium*<sup>6</sup> by Sidney B. Sperry, was also helpful.

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METHODOLOGY

This thesis relates quite closely to the pattern of John H. Mabey's Master's Thesis, "The Book of Mormon as an Instrument in Teaching the Concept of Prayer," Brigham Young University, 1963. The research design of the Mabey thesis will serve as a model and precedent for this study.

The Doctrine and Covenants was examined and an attempt was made to select every passage pertaining to orally communicating the gospel. These hundreds of passages were analyzed and, based on their similarity and preponderance, were divided into topics. These topics then became our chapter headings and subdivisions. The chapters in succession consider the communicator and his worthiness, knowledge, authority, and the oral means, message and manner in communicating, concluding with the subject of divine help.

The writer assumes full responsibility for making the selection and categorizing of certain words and phrases knowing quite well the frailties of the flesh in matters of judgment. He has felt his inadequacy in making commentary on the words of the Lord and therefore has
tried to let the Doctrine and Covenants speak fully for itself in the areas under consideration. A few quotes from the successive Presidents of the Church have been used. This was done because each of these men, in their time, was the earthly head of the Church and the prophet-spokesman of the Lord. It was felt that their words of additional light or corroboration would be valuable.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

This study was limited to the sending aspect of communication and to basic principles of orally communicating the gospel among men as is found in the Doctrine and Covenants. To have considered the other scriptures would have made this study too voluminous. Communicating the gospel through song will not be included in this study.
Chapter 2

PERSONAL RIGHTEOUSNESS FOR COMMUNICATING

Plainly and simply stated, righteousness is the quality and type of living that results from obedience to the laws and ordinances of the gospel.\(^1\)

In the first section of this chapter we shall consider righteousness in general from the Doctrine and Covenants as it would apply to all members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Then we shall consider certain principles of righteousness that have been particularly stressed in the Doctrine and Covenants for all oral communicators of the gospel. These principles will be grouped in three sections as follows: diligence, humility and meekness, prayer and fasting.

IN GENERAL

To those engaged in the work of the Lord, which would include the oral communicators of the gospel, the

following references stress the need for righteousness:

1. 4:2, 5-7 Therefore, O ye that embark in the service of God, see that ye serve him with all your heart, might, mind and strength, . . . And faith, hope, charity and love, with an eye single to the glory of God, qualify him for the work. Remember faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, brotherly kindness, godliness, charity, humility, diligence. Ask, and ye shall receive; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

2. 12:7-8 I speak unto you, and also to all those who have desires to bring forth and establish this work; And no one can assist in this work except he shall be humble and full of love, having faith, hope, and charity, being temperate in all things, whatsoever shall be entrusted to his care.

3. 25:15, 16 Keep my commandments continually, . . . And verily, verily, I say unto you, that this is my voice unto all. Amen.

4. 63:37 . . . every man should take righteousness in his hands and faithfulness upon his loins.

5. 121:36, 41, 42, 45 . . . the rights of the priesthood are inseparably connected with the powers of heaven, and that the powers of heaven cannot be controlled nor handled only upon the principles of righteousness. . . . No power or influence can or ought to be maintained by virtue of the priesthood, only by persuasion, by long-suffering, by gentleness and meekness, and by love unfeigned; By kindness, and pure knowledge, . . . Let thy bowels also be full of charity towards all men, . . . let virtue garnish thy thoughts unceasingly.

In this thesis a number will be given to each reference followed by the section number of the Doctrine and Covenants and the verse or verses quoted.
Without repeating what may have been listed more than once, here are some principles of righteousness, which were found in the foregoing references:

Service, faith, hope, charity, love, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, brotherly kindness, godliness, humility, diligence, prayer (1).³

Persuasion, long suffering, gentleness, meekness (5).

Of course all principles of righteousness are included in the admonition "Keep my commandments" (3) and "take righteousness . . . and faithfulness" (4).

That blessings come to all those who obey principles of righteousness, is pointed out in the following passages from the Doctrine and Covenants:

1. 50:29 . . . if ye are purified and cleansed from all sin, ye shall ask whatsoever you will in the name of Jesus and it shall be done.

2. 76:52 That by keeping the commandments they might be washed and cleansed from all their sins, and receive the Holy Spirit.

3. 76:116 . . . the Holy Spirit, which God bestows on those who love him, and purify themselves before him;

4. 84:46 . . . the Spirit enlighteneth every man through the world, that hearkeneth to the voice of the Spirit.

³Numbers in parenthesis in this thesis will refer back to the preceding list of numbered references.
5. 103:36 All victory and glory is brought to pass unto you through your . . . faithfulness.

6. 121:45-46 Let thy bowels also be full of charity towards all men, and to the household of faith, and let virtue garnish thy thoughts unceasingly; then shall thy confidence wax strong in the presence of God; and the doctrine of the priesthood shall distil upon thy soul as the dews from heaven. The Holy Ghost shall be thy constant companion, and thy scepter an unchanging scepter of righteousness and truth; and thy dominion shall be an everlasting dominion, and without compulsory means it shall flow unto thee forever and ever.

Answered prayers (1), receiving the Holy Spirit, Holy Ghost (2, 3, 6)\(^4\) enlightenerment (4), victory and glory (5) are the results of righteousness.

\(\text{\textsuperscript{4}}\). . . separate and distinct meanings of the title Spirit of the Lord are found. It is used to mean the Spirit of Jesus Christ, or light of truth, or light of Christ--the Spirit which is impersonal and fills the immensity of space, the Spirit which is the agency by means of which God governs and controls in all things; . . . It also is a synonym for the Holy Ghost, that Spirit entity or personage of Spirit who is a member of the Godhead.

To gain a sound gospel understanding, the truth seeker must determine in each scriptural passage what is meant by such titles as Spirit, Holy Spirit, Spirit of the Lord, Spirit of God, Spirit of truth. The Spirit which is the Holy Ghost is a revelator; by his power men gain testimonies of the truth. . . . His mission is to bear record of the Father and the Son . . . and to sanctify and cleanse the soul of the righteous. . . . The Spirit which is the light of Christ is sent to strive with men . . . and to give the guidance which results in the great inventions and discoveries" (Mormon Doctrine, pp. 752, 753).
The necessity of having the spirit of the Lord while teaching the gospel was emphasized by Heber J. Grant while he was serving as President and Prophet, Seer and Revelator of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

All the teaching in the world, unless the individual is living that which he teaches, will not carry the spirit of right action. It does not carry with it the weight; it does not really touch the hearts of those who listen. It is the spirit that gives life. When we are living the Gospel of Jesus Christ we have the spirit, and the people feel it.  

That unrighteousness denies one the spirit of the Lord is evident from the following scriptures:

1. 1:33 And he that repents not, from him shall be taken even the light which he has received; for my Spirit shall not always strive with man, saith the Lord of Hosts.

2. 42:23 And he that looketh upon a woman to lust after her shall deny the faith, and shall not have the Spirit; and if he repents not he shall be cast out.

3. 63:16 And verily I say unto you, as I have said before, he that looketh on a woman to lust after her, or if any shall commit adultery in their hearts, they shall not have the Spirit, but shall deny the faith and shall fear.

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5Address given in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Utah, at the MIA and Primary Conference, June 14, 1931, Millennial Star, XCIII (August 13, 1931), 515.
4. 64:15-16  . . . they kept not the law, neither the commandment; They sought evil in their hearts, and I, the Lord, withheld my Spirit.

While the foregoing scriptures have general application to all engaged in the work of the Lord, the following scriptures speak specifically to the oral communicators of the gospel:

1. 6:9  Say nothing but repentance unto this generation; keep my commandments, and assist to bring forth my work, according to my commandments.

2. 11:9  Say nothing but repentance unto this generation. Keep my commandments, and assist to bring forth my work, according to my commandments.

3. 18:14, 19  Wherefore, you are called to cry repentance unto this people . . . And if you have not faith, hope, and charity, you can do nothing.

4. 18:41, 43  And you must preach unto the world . . . you must keep my commandments in all things.

5. 28:3  And thou shalt be obedient unto the things which I shall give unto him, even as Aaron, to declare faithfully the commandments and the revelations.

6. 31:6, 13  . . . declare my word. . . . Be faithful unto the end.

7. 32:1, 4, 5  . . . declare my gospel . . . give heed to that which is written, . . . give heed unto these words.
8. 33:10,14,17  Yea, open your mouth . . . remember the church articles and covenants to keep them. . . . Wherefore, be faithful.

9. 34:10-11  . . . prophesy, . . . And if you are faithful, behold,

10. 35:23-24  . . . and thou shalt preach my gospel . . . Keep all the commandments and covenants by which ye are bound.

11. 38:23-24  . . . teach one another . . . And let every man esteem his brother as himself, and practise virtue and holiness before me.

12. 38:41-42  And let your preaching be the warning voice, . . . And go ye out from among the wicked. Save yourselves. Be ye clean that bear the vessels of the Lord.

13. 42:11-13  . . . go forth to preach . . . shall teach . . . And they shall observe the covenants and church articles to do them.

14. 43:8, 11  . . . ye shall instruct . . . Purge ye out the iniquity which is among you; sanctify yourselves before me;

15. 43:15-16  . . . Ye are not sent forth to be taught, but to teach . . . Sanctify yourselves.

16. 49:1, 26  . . . preach my gospel . . . repent of all your sins.

17. 52:1, 4, 9  . . . thus saith the Lord unto the elders whom he hath called and chosen . . . inasmuch as they are faithful unto me, . . . let them journey from thence preaching the word.

18. 52:16  He that speaketh . . . the same is of God if he obey mine ordinances.

19. 62:5  . . . return to bear record . . . only be faithful and declare.

21. 71:7, 11 . . . confound your enemies; call upon them to meet you both in public and in private; and inasmuch as ye are faithful . . . keep my commandments.

22. 75:13 . . . and proclaim . . . and inasmuch as they are faithful.

23. 75:15-16 . . . and proclaim my gospel, even as I have commanded them . . . And he who is faithful.

24. 81:24 . . . in proclaiming the gospel . . . Wherefore, be faithful.

25. 84:86 . . . unto all the faithful . . . that goeth forth to proclaim this gospel.

26. 88:118, 121, 123-125 . . . teach one another . . . cease from all your light speeches, from all laughter, from all your lustful desires, from all your . . . light-mindedness, and from all your wicked doings . . . love one another; cease to be covetous; learn to impart one to another as the gospel requires. Cease to be idle; cease to be unclean; cease to find fault one with another; cease to sleep longer than is needful; retire to thy bed early, arise early . . . And above all things, clothe yourselves with the bond of charity.

27. 88:138 . . . ye shall not receive any among you into this school save he is clean from the blood of this generation.

28. 93:51-52 . . . and also proclaim . . . and inasmuch as you keep my sayings.

29. 105:40-41 . . . make proposals . . . be faithful.
30. 106:2, 8 . . . preach my everlasting gospel, . . . if he continue to be a faithful witness and a light unto the church.

31. 107:85-87, 89, 99 . . . to teach . . . teaching them . . . to teach . . . to teach . . . Wherefore, now let every man learn his duty.

32. 108:5-6 . . . if you continue faithful . . . you shall have right to preach my gospel.

33. 112:19, 22, 28, 34 . . . ye shall proclaim . . . abide in my word, . . . purify your hearts before me; and then go ye into all the world, and preach my gospel. . . . Be faithful.

34. 122:4 . . . thy voice shall be more terrible in the midst of thine enemies than the fierce lion, because of thy righteousness.

35. 124:97 . . . let him . . . be without guile . . . what he shall say.

36. 124:103-104 . . . if my servant Sidney will serve me . . . if he will offer unto me an acceptable offering, and acknowledgments, . . . he shall lift up his voice again on the mountains, and be a spokesman.

37. 124:116, 118 . . . let him repent of all his folly, and clothe himself with charity; and cease to do evil, and lay aside all his hard speeches; . . . And hearken unto the counsel of my servants Joseph and Hyrum, and William Law, and unto the authorities which I have called.

The foregoing references enjoined the following principles and practices of righteousness for the oral communicators of the gospel:

1. Faithfulness, declare faithfully, righteousness—5, 6, 8, 9, 17, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 29, 30, 32, 33, 34.
2. Keep commandments, church articles and covenants, my sayings--1, 2, 4, 8, 10, 13, 21, 28.
3. Be obedient, obey, abide--5, 18, 33.
4. Have charity--3, 26, 37.
5. Be clean--12, 27.
7. Have faith--3, and hope--3; Give heed to what is written--7; Esteem brother as self--11; Practice virtue--11; Practice holiness--11; Save yourselves--12; Impart one to another--26; Retire early, arise early--26; Love one another--26; Be a light--31; Learn duty--31; Serve me--36; Offer acceptable offering--36; Harken unto counsel--37.

There were also things that the communicators were to repent of, avoid, forsake, cease:
2. Repent of sins, folly--16, 37.
3. Forsake all unrighteousness--20.
5. Cease from all--light speeches, laughter, lustful desires, light mindedness, wicked doings--26.
8. Purify heart--33.
9. Be without guile--35.
10. Cease to do evil--37.

The following references reveal blessings that attend those oral communicators of the gospel who abide by principles of righteousness:

1. 6:9 Say nothing but repentance unto this generation; keep my commandments, and assist to bring forth my work, according to my commandments, and you shall be blessed.

2. 11:9 Say nothing but repentance unto this generation. Keep my commandments, and assist to bring forth my work, according to my commandments, and you shall be blessed.

3. 18:41, 43-45 And you must preach unto the world, you must keep my commandments in all things; And by your hands I will work a marvelous work among the children of men, unto the convincing of many of their sins, that they may come unto repentance, and that they may come unto the kingdom of my Father. Wherefore, the blessings which I give unto you are above all things.

4. 31:6, 13 Be faithful unto the end, and lo, I am with you.

5. 32:1, 4, 5 . . . declare my gospel . . . give heed to that which is written, give heed unto these words . . . and I will bless them.

6. 34:10-11 . . . prophesy, . . . And if you are faithful, behold, I am with you.
7. 35:23-24  
... and thou shalt preach my gospel.  
Keep all the commandments and covenants by which ye are bound; and I will cause the heavens to shake for your good.

8. 43:15-16  
... Ye are not sent forth to be taught, but to teach.  
Sanctify yourselves and ye shall be endowed with power.

9. 49:1, 27-27  
... preach my gospel.  
repent of all your sins.  
Behold, I will go before you and be your rearward; and I will be in your midst, and you shall not be confounded.

10. 52:1,4,9  
... unto the elders whom he hath called and chosen.  
inasmuch as they are faithful unto me, it shall be made known unto them what they shall do.  
let them journey from thence preaching the word.

11. 71:7, 9, 10-11  
... confound your enemies, call upon them to meet you both in public and in private; and inasmuch as ye are faithful their shame shall be made manifest.  
there is no weapon that is formed against you shall prosper;  
And if any man lift his voice against you he shall be confounded in mine own due time.  
Wherefore, keep my commandments.

12. 75:13  
... and proclaim.  
inasmuch as they are faithful, lo, I will be with them even unto the end.

13. 75:15-16  
... proclaim.  
he who is faithful shall overcome all things, and shall be lifted up at the last day.

14. 88:118, 124  
... teach one another.  
retire to thy bed early, that ye may not be weary;  
arise early, that your bodies and your minds may be invigorated.
15. 93:51-52 ... and also proclaim ... and inasmuch as you keep my sayings you shall not be confounded.

16. 105:40-41 ... make proposals ... be faithful; and behold, and lo, I am with you even unto the end.

17. 106:2, 8 ... preach my everlasting gospel ... and if he continue to be a faithful witness and a light unto the church I have prepared a crown for him in the mansions of my Father.

18. 122:18 ... thy voice shall be more terrible in the midst of thine enemies than the fierce lion, because of thy righteousness; and thy God shall stand by thee forever and ever.

19. 124:97 ... let him ... be without guile, and he shall receive of my Spirit, ... which shall manifest unto him the truth of all things, and shall give him, in the very hour, what he shall say.

From the foregoing references the Doctrine and Covenants points to the following benefits to these oral communicators of the gospel who abide the righteous principal described:

1. I am with you--4, 6, 9, 12, 16, 18.

2. You shall be blessed--1, 2, 3, 5.

3. Not be confounded--9, 15.

4. Work a marvelous work, bring many to Father's Kingdom--3.

5. Heavens to shake for your good--7.
8. Enemies confounded and shame manifested--11.
9. Weapons formed against you won't prosper--11.
10. Overcome all things, lifted up at last day--13.
12. A crown in Father's mansion--17.
14. Receive of my spirit which will manifest the truth and give what shall say--19.

In closing this section on general principles of righteousness as it affects the oral communication of the gospel the following quote from President Heber J. Grant seems appropriate:

I ask every man and woman occupying a place of responsibility whose duty it is to teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to live it and to keep the commandments of God, so that their example will teach it; and . . . unless they are able to live it we ask them to please step aside so that those who are living it can teach it. No man can teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ under the inspiration of the living God and with power from on high unless he is living it.6

6Conference Reports of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, One Hundred Eighth Annual Conference, April 3, 1938.
DILIGENCE

... diligence—that is, pure dogged determination, perseverance, application to duty, zeal industry, heed to counsel. Continuing diligence in church service is a mark of testimony, conversion, and spiritual stability.7

The Doctrine and Covenants teaches the need for diligence in all church service as the following indicates:

1. 4:2,4,6 ... O ye that embark in the service of God, see that ye serve him with all your heart, might, mind and strength, that ye may stand blameless before God. ... he that thrusteth in his sickle with his might, the same layeth up in store that he perisheth not. ... Remember ... diligence.

2. 6:1, 3 great and marvelous work is about to come forth ... whoso desireth to reap, let him thrust in his sickle with his might.

3. 11:1, 3 A great and marvelous work is about to come forth ... whoso desireth to reap let him thrust in his sickle with his might.

4. 12:1, 3 A great and marvelous work is about to come forth ... whoso desireth to reap let him thrust in his sickle with his might.

5. 14:1, 3 A great and marvelous work is about to come forth ... whoso desireth to reap let him thrust in his sickle with his might.

6. 103:36 All victory and glory is brought to pass unto you through your diligence.

7Mormon Doctrine, p. 197.
As a righteous principle, diligence is particularly emphasized in the Doctrine and Covenants in connection with orally communicating the gospel. The following references show that emphasis:

1. 24:12 And at all times, and in all places, he shall open his mouth and declare my gospel as with the voice of a trump, both day and night. And I will give unto him strength such as is not known among men.

2. 30:5, 8, 11 . . . open your mouth to declare my gospel; . . . be diligent . . . . And your whole labor shall be in Zion, with all your soul from henceforth; yea, you shall ever open your mouth in my cause, not fearing what man can do, for I am with you.

3. 31:4-5 . . . declare the things which have been revealed . . . begin to preach . . . . thrust in your sickle with all your soul, and your sins are forgiven you, and you shall be laden with sheaves upon your back, for the laborer is worthy of his hire.

4. 33:7-9 . . . thrust in your sickles, and reap with all your might, mind, and strength. Open your mouths . . . . Yea, open your mouths and spare not, and you shall be laden with sheaves upon your backs.

5. 34:5, 10 . . . you are called of me to preach my gospel . . . . lift up your voice and spare not, for the Lord God hath spoken.

6. 43:20, 28 Lift up your voices and spare not. . . . labor ye, labor ye in my vineyard for the last time.
7. 60:2-3  . . . with some I am not well pleased, for they will not open their mouths, but they hide the talent which I have given unto them. . . . if they are not more faithful unto me, it shall be taken away, even that which they have.

8. 60:13  . . . they have been sent to preach . . . I give unto them a commandment, thus: thou shalt not idle away thy time, neither shalt thou bury thy talent that it may not be known.

9. 75:2-3, 29  Hearken, O ye who have given your names to go forth to proclaim my gospel, . . . it is my will that you should go forth and not tarry, neither be idle but labor with your might . . . . Let every man be diligent in all things. And the idler shall not have place in the church, except he repent and mend his ways.

10. 88:78, 84  Teach ye diligently and my grace shall attend you, that you may be instructed more perfectly. . . . labor diligently, that you may be perfected in your ministry to go forth.

11. 88:118, 124  . . . seek ye diligently and teach one another . . . . Cease to be idle.

12. 106:2-3, 5  . . . preach my everlasting gospel. . . . And devote his whole time to this high and holy calling, which I now give unto him, seeking diligently the kingdom of heaven and its righteousness, and all things necessary shall be added thereunto. . . . Therefore, gird up your loins that you may be the children of light, and that day shall not overtake you as a thief.

13. 107:85, 86, 89, 99-100  . . . to teach . . . . teaching them to teach . . . . let every man learn his duty, and to act in the office
in which he is appointed, in all diligence. He that is slothful shall not be counted worthy to stand, and he that learns not his duty and shows himself not approved shall not be counted worthy to stand.


15. 112:4-5, 14 . . . and thou shalt bear record . . . . Contend thou, therefore, morning by morning; and day after day . . . and when the night cometh let not the inhabitants of the earth slumber, because of thy speech. . . . Arise and gird up your loins, take up your cross, follow me.

16. 124:75 And let him lift up his voice . . . let him not fail, neither let his heart faint; and I will accept of his offerings.

17. 124:101 . . . cry aloud and spare not.

The foregoing references of the Doctrine and Covenants describes blessings that will come to the diligent oral communicator of the gospel.

2. I am with you--2, 5.
3. Forgiveness of sins--3.
6. My grace shall attend you--10.
8. All things necessary added--12.

10. I accept offerings--16.

These scriptures also reveal to us the mind of the Lord on the lack of diligence in orally communicating the gospel.

1. If won't open mouth, what they have shall be taken--7.

2. Don't hide or bury talent--7, 8; if hide it shall be taken away--7.

3. Don't be idle--8, 9, 11; idler won't have place in church--9.

4. Slothful and he that learns not duty nor is approved won't stand--13.

HUMILITY AND MEEKNESS

All progress in spiritual things is conditioned upon the prior attainment of humility. Pride, conceit, haughtiness, and vainglory are of the world and stand as a bar to the receipt of spiritual gifts.8

Few virtues have such inherent worth as meekness, for the meek are the godfearing and the righteous. They are the ones who willingly conform to the gospel standards, thus submitting their wills to the will of the Lord. They are not the fearful, the spiritless, the timid.9

8Mormon Doctrine, p. 370. 9Ibid., p. 474.
The Doctrine and Covenants points out in the following scriptures the need for humility on the part of all engaged in the work of the Lord:

1. 4:2, 6, 7  Therefore, O ye that embark in the service of God, . . . Remember . . . humility.

2. 12:7-8  . . . I speak unto you, and also to all those who have desires to bring forth and establish this work: And no one can assist in this work except he shall be humble.

Humility and meekness are two related principles of righteousness that are also singled out for emphasis in the Doctrine and Covenants for those who would orally communicate the gospel:

1. 19:21, 23  And I command you that you preach . . . . walk in the meekness of my Spirit, and you shall have peace in me.

2. 19:29-30  . . . thou shalt declare glad tidings, yea, publish it upon the mountains . . . . And thou shalt do it with all humility.

3. 19:37, 41  . . . speak freely to all; yea, preach, exhort, declare the truth, . . . . canst thou be humble and meek, and conduct thyself wisely before me?

4. 23:1-2  . . . beware of pride, lest thou shouldst enter into temptation. . . . thy heart shall be opened to preach.

5. 32:1  . . . declare my gospel . . . be meek and lowly of heart.

6. 52:16  He that speaketh, whose spirit is contrite, whose language is meek and edifieth, the same is of God if he obey mine ordinances.
7. 63:57  . . . in meekness to warn sinners to repentance.

8. 88:118, 121  . . . teach one another . . . . Therefore, cease . . . from all your pride.

9. 106:2, 7  . . . preach my everlasting gospel, . . . I will lift him up inasmuch as he will humble himself before me.

10. 112:3, 10, 15  . . . inasmuch as thou hast abased thyself thou shalt be exalted; therefore, all thy sins are forgiven thee . . . . Be thou humble; and the Lord thy God shall lead thee by the hand, and give thee answer to thy prayers . . . . Exalt not yourselves.

11. 112:19, 22  . . . ye shall proclaim my name . . . . inasmuch as they shall humble themselves.

12. 118:3  Let the residue continue to preach from that hour, and if they will do this in all lowliness of heart, in meekness and humility . . . . I, the Lord, give unto them a promise that I will provide for their families; and an effectual door shall be opened for them.

13. 124:118  . . . Lyman Wight should continue in preaching for Zion, in the spirit of meekness . . . . and I will bear him up as on eagles' wings; and he shall beget glory and honor to himself and unto my name.

14. 124:97  . . . let him be humble before me, . . . and he shall receive of my Spirit, even the Comforter, which shall manifest unto him the truth of all things, and shall give him, in the very hour, what he shall say.

15. 124:103-104  . . . if my servant Sidney will humble himself before me . . . . he shall lift up his voice again on the mountains, and be a spokesman.
"Lowly" and "lowliness of heart" (5, 12) and
"contrite" spirit (6) are phrases often used in conjunc-
tion with meek and humble.

Pride and self exaltation (4, 8, 10) are barriers
to humility and meekness.

From the foregoing scriptures we find several
promised blessings that would follow the humble and meek
oral communicators of the gospel:

1. Peace in me--1.
2. Lifted up--9, 13.
4. Sins are forgiven--10.
5. God will lead thee--10.
6. Answer thy prayers--10.
7. Will provide for families--12.
8. Effectual door opened for them--12.
10. Get glory and honor to himself and God's
name--13.

11. Receive the spirit which manifests truth and
gives what to say--14.

Joseph Smith, the first Prophet-President of The
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints stated:
When the Twelve, or any other witnesses of Jesus Christ, stand before the congregations of the earth, and preach in the power and demonstration of the Holy Ghost, and the people are astonished and confounded at the doctrine and say, "those men have preached powerful sermons," then let them take care that they do not ascribe the glory unto themselves, but be careful to be humble, and to ascribe the glory to God and the Lamb; for it is by the power of the Holy Priesthood and the Holy Ghost that they have the power thus to speak.10

PRAYER AND FASTING

"To pray is to speak with God, either vocally or by forming the thoughts involved in the mind."11

As President Joseph F. Smith expressed it, fasting consists in the complete abstinence from "food and drink." (Gospel Doctrine, 5th ed., p. 243.) Fasting, with prayer as its companion, is designed to increase spirituality; to foster a spirit of devotion and love of God; to increase faith in the hearts of men, thus assuring divine favor; to encourage humility and contrition of soul; to aid in the acquirement of righteousness; to teach man his nothingness and dependence upon God; to hasten those who properly comply with the law of fasting along the path to salvation.12


11 Mormon Doctrine, p. 581.

12 Ibid., p. 276.
These are numerous references to prayer and some to fasting in the Doctrine and Covenants. The following references should suffice to show the necessity for all to pray and fast:

1. 20:33 . . . let the church take heed and pray always, lest they fall into temptation.

2. 46:1, 7 Hearken, 0 ye people of my church. . . . ye are commanded in all things to ask of God, who giveth liberally; . . . doing all things with prayer . . . that ye may not be seduced by evil spirits, or doctrines of devils, or the commandments of men.

3. 88:1, 76 . . . thus saith the Lord unto you who have assembled yourselves together. . . . I give unto you a commandment that ye shall continue in prayer and fasting from this time forth.

4. 93:49 What I say unto one I say unto all; pray always lest that wicked one have power in you; and remove you out of your place.

5. 103:36 All victory and glory is brought to pass unto you through your diligence, faithfulness, and prayers of faith.

The following references point out that in addition to diligence and humility and meekness, that prayer (and to a small extent, fasting) is another principle of righteousness that is stressed in the Doctrine and Covenants for those who orally communicate the gospel:
1. 14:8 If you shall ask the Father in my name, in faith believing you shall receive the Holy Ghost, which giveth utterance, that you may stand as a witness of the things of which you shall both hear and see, and also that you may declare repentance.

2. 18:14, 18 ... you are called to cry repentance ... Ask the Father in my name, in faith believing that you shall receive, and you shall have the Holy Ghost, which manifesteth all things which are expedient.

3. 19:37-38 ... preach, exhort, declare ... Pray always and I will pour out my Spirit upon you, and great shall be your blessing.

4. 24:5 And thou shalt continue in calling upon God in my name, ... and expounding all scriptures unto the church.

5. 30:5-6 ... open your mouth to declare my gospel; ... ever lifting up your heart unto me in prayer and faith, for his and your deliverance.

6. 31:3, 12 ... and you shall declare glad tidings ... Pray always lest you enter into temptation and lose your reward.

7. 32:1, 4 ... he shall declare my gospel ... And they shall give heed to that which is written ... and they shall pray always that I may unfold the same to their understanding.

8. 33:8, 17 Open your mouths ... praying always.

9. 42:11-12, 14 ... go forth to preach ... shall teach ... the Spirit shall be given unto you by the prayer of faith.

10. 49:1, 26 ... you shall go and preach my gospel ... ask and ye shall receive; knock and it shall be opened unto you.
11. 52:9 ... let them journey from thence preaching the word by the way, saying ... that which is taught them by the Comforter through the prayer of faith.

12. 63:64 ... that which cometh from above is sacred, and must be spoken with care, and by constraint of the Spirit; ... ye receive the Spirit through prayer.

13. 75:9-11, 27 ... proclaim the things which I have commanded them--Calling on the name of the Lord for the Comforter, which shall teach them all things that are expedient for them--Praying always that they faint not; and inasmuch as they do this, I will be with them even unto the end. ... Let them ask and they shall receive, knock and it shall be opened unto them, and be made known from on high, even by the Comforter, whither they shall go.

14. 81:3 ... in prayer always, vocally and in thy heart, in public and in private, also in thy ministry in proclaiming the gospel.

15. 84:61 ... remain steadfast in your minds in solemnity and the spirit of prayer, in bearing testimony to all the world.

16. 88:118, 119, 126 ... teach one another ... and establish a house, even a house of prayer, a house of fasting, ... Pray always, that ye may not faint, until I come.

17. 109:7-8, 16 ... teach one another ... establish a house, even a house of prayer, a house of fasting ... that this house may be a house of prayer, a house of fasting.

From the foregoing references these are some of the blessings that would follow a proper prayer by one orally communicating the gospel:
1. Receive the Holy Ghost, my spirit--1,2,3,9,12.
2. The comforter teaches them--11, 13.
3. Faint not--13, 16.
5. Great blessings--3.
6. Deliverance--5.
Chapter 3

KNOWING BEFORE COMMUNICATING

Gospel knowledge deals primarily with a clear perception of the truths about God and his laws, the laws governing his dealings with his offspring, the laws which if obeyed will enable these offspring to gain salvation in the presence of God. In a lesser sense gospel knowledge deals with all truth, for all truth comes from God, and in the ultimate sense it is all part of the gospel...

All types of knowledge however are not of equal worth, all do not reward the acquirer with equal progress toward exaltation. Knowledge of the arts and sciences--of mathematics, chemistry, history, medicine, and the like--have no direct and immediate bearing on the attainment of salvation. Of themselves they do not prepare a man for or lead him to a celestial inheritance, but they may school and train him in such a way that he will be more susceptible to the reception of saving truth or more capable to understand it.

But it is the knowledge of God and his laws that leads to high reward in the hereafter. (2 Ne. 9:28-29, 42) If the righteous man has knowledge of temporal things, so much the better, for he can use that knowledge in furthering the spread of the particular knowledge that does have saving value. And it is for this reason that the saints are commanded to seek knowledge in all fields. (D&C 88:77-81, 118; 93:53; Doctrines of Salvation, Vol. 1, pp. 290-306)¹

President Brigham Young, the successor to the Prophet Joseph Smith, spoke to this subject when he said:

¹Mormon Doctrine, pp. 425-426.
There are a great many branches of education: some go to college to learn languages, some to study law, some to study physics, and some to study astronomy, and various other branches of science. We want every branch of science taught in this place that is taught in the world. But our favorite study is that branch which particularly belongs to the Elders of Israel—namely, theology. Every Elder should become a profound theologian—should understand this branch better than all the world.  

In this chapter we shall consider the principle of gaining knowledge before orally communicating the gospel. There are many scriptures in the Doctrine and Covenants pertaining to the importance of gaining knowledge, particularly about God and his saving principles, the manner of obtaining it, its sources, what to study, and the imparting of knowledge one to another. Here then are seven scriptures to introduce us into the broad field of knowledge:

1. 9:5, 7-9 . . . you did not continue as you commenced, when you began to translate, . . . you have supposed that I would give it unto you, when you took no thought save it was to ask me. But, behold, I say unto you, that you must study it out in your mind; then you must ask me if it be right, and if it is right I will cause that your bosom shall burn within you; therefore, you shall feel that it is right. But if it be not right you shall have no such feelings, but you shall have a stupor of thought that shall cause you to forget the thing which is wrong.

2Journal of Discourses, VI, 317.
2. 33:16 ... the Book of Mormon and the holy scriptures are given of me for your instruction.

3. 43:8-9 ... when ye are assembled together ye shall instruct and edify each other, that ye may know how to act and direct my church, how to act upon the points of my law and commandments, which I have given. And thus ye shall become instructed in the law of my church.

4. 50:40 Behold, ye are little children and ye cannot bear all things now; ye must grow in grace and in the knowledge of the truth.

5. 121:26 God shall give unto you knowledge by his Holy Spirit, yea, by the unspeakable gift of the Holy Ghost.

6. 131:6 It is impossible for a man to be saved in ignorance.

7. 136:32-33 Let him that is ignorant learn wisdom by humbling himself and calling upon the Lord, his God, that his eyes may be opened that he may see, and his ears opened that he may hear; For my Spirit is sent forth into the world to enlighten the humble and contrite.

Knowledge can be gained by study and then getting divine confirmation of its correctness (1). The scriptures are given for our instruction (2). Meetings are to be held for instruction (3). Knowledge must come a step at a time (4). Knowledge may be obtained through the Holy Spirit (5). Without knowledge a man cannot be saved (6). God will give wisdom to the humble and prayerful (7).
To those who orally communicate the gospel the Lord gave several scriptures pertaining to knowledge:

1. 11:15-16 . . . you need not suppose that you are called to preach until you are called. Wait a little longer, until you shall have my word, my rock, my church, and my gospel, that you may know of a surety my doctrine.

2. 11:21-22, 26-27 Seek not to declare my word, but first seek to obtain my word, and then shall your tongue be loosed; then, if you desire, you shall have my Spirit and my word, yea, the power of God unto the convincing of men. But now hold your peace; study my word which hath gone forth among the children of men, and also study my word which shall come forth among the children of men, or that which is now translating, yea, until you have obtained all which I shall grant unto the children of men in this generation, . . . . Therefore, treasure up in your heart until the time which is in my wisdom that you shall go forth. Behold, I speak unto all who have good desires.

3. 19:21, 23 And I command you that you preach . . . . Learn of me, and listen to my words.

4. 25:7-8 And thou shalt be ordained under his hand to expound scriptures, and to exhort the church, . . . . and thy time shall be given . . . to learning much.

5. 32:1 . . . he shall declare my gospel and learn of me.

6. 43:15-16 . . . Ye are not sent forth to be taught, but to teach . . . And ye are to be taught from on high.

7. 43:28, 34 . . . labor ye in my vineyard for the last time--for the last time call upon
the inhabitants of the earth. Hearken ye to these words. Behold, I am Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world. Treasure these things up in your hearts, and let the solemnities of eternity rest upon your minds.

8. 52:9 And let them journey from thence preaching the word by the way, saying none other things than . . . and that which is taught them by the Comforter.

9. 69:7-8 . . . travel many times from place to place, and from church to church, that he may the more easily obtain knowledge. Preaching and expounding, . . . .

10. 75:9-10 . . . go with him, and proclaim the things which I have commanded them—Calling on the name of the Lord for the Comforter, which shall teach them all things that are expedient for them—

11. 79:1-2 . . . wherewith he has been ordained, proclaiming glad tidings of great joy, even the everlasting gospel. And I will send upon him the Comforter, which shall teach him the truth.

12. 84:85 Neither take ye thought beforehand what ye shall say; but treasure up in your minds continually the words of life and it shall be given you in the very hour that portion that shall be meted unto every man.

13. 88:77-81 . . . teach one another the doctrine of the kingdom. . . . that you may be instructed more perfectly in theory, in principle, in doctrine, in the law of the gospel, in all things that pertain unto the kingdom of God, that are expedient for you to understand. Of things both in heaven and in the earth, and under the earth; things which have been, things
which are, things which must shortly come to pass; things which are at home, things which are abroad; the wars and the perplexities of the nations, and the judgments which are on the land; and a knowledge also of countries and of kingdoms. That ye may be prepared in all things when I shall send you again . . . Behold, I sent you out to testify and warn the people.

14. 88:118-119 . . . teach one another words of wisdom; yea, seek ye out of the best books words of wisdom; seek learning, even by study and also by faith. . . . prepare every needful thing; and establish a house, . . . a house of learning.

15. 90:13, 15 . . . from thenceforth preside over the affairs of the church and the school; . . . and study and learn, and become acquainted with all good books, and with languages, tongues, and people.

16. 109:7, 14 . . . teach one another words of wisdom; yea, seek ye out of the best books words of wisdom, seek learning even by study and also by faith; . . . prepare every needful thing, and establish a house, a house of learning . . . and that they may seek learning even by study, and also by faith.

Let us summarize some of the principles revealed in the foregoing references. Preparation precedes preaching, and in preparing they are to study "my word" (1, 2) and to wait before preaching until they "know of a surety my doctrine"(1). David O. McKay, Prophet and President of the Church, stated:
The great obligation upon a teacher is to be prepared to teach. A teacher cannot teach others that which he himself does not know. He cannot make his students feel what he does not feel himself. He cannot attempt to lead a young man or woman to obtain a testimony of the gospel of God if the teacher does not have that testimony himself or herself.3

They are to seek learning not only by study (2, 14, 15, 16), but also by faith (14, 16), and are to be "taught from on high" (6), by the Comforter (8, 10),4 which will teach them the truth (11), and "all things that are expedient for them" (10).

They are to "learn of me" (3, 5), "become acquainted with all good books, and with languages, tongues, and people" (15), and seek "out of the best books words of wisdom" (14, 16).

They are to first treasure up in their minds (12) and hearts (2, 7) the words of the Lord (2, 7, 12) and then they do not have to take "thought beforehand" what they "shall say" for it shall be given "in the very hour that portion that shall be meted unto every man" (12).


4 "The Holy Ghost is the Comforter . . . This name-title is given to the third member of the Godhead to signify his mission of bringing solace, love, peace, quiet enjoyment, and comfort to the saints." Mormon Doctrine, p. 148.
They should first learn the doctrines of the Kingdom and then other branches of useful knowledge so they may be prepared in all things for their calling and mission (13). They are to "teach one another" (13, 14, 16), establish "a house of learning" (14, 16), and have a school (15).

The Doctrine and Covenants teaches the principle that knowledge of the gospel is essential before orally communicating it. The pattern is well established in reference 2.

1. seek not to declare my word, but first
2. seek to obtain my word, and then
3. shall your tongue be loosed, then, if you desire, you
4. shall have my Spirit and my word, yea,
5. the power of God unto the convincing of men.
Chapter 4

AUTHORITY TO COMMUNICATE

We believe that a man must be called of God, by prophecy, and by the laying on of hands, by those who are in authority to preach the gospel and administer in the ordinances thereof.¹

The following references from the Doctrine and Covenants show that he who would represent the Lord in orally communicating his gospel must needs have his authority to do so.

1. 1:4 ... the voice of warning shall be unto all people, by the mouths of my disciples, whom I have chosen in these last days.

2. 5:6 ... you shall be ordained and go forth and deliver my words.

3. 5:11 ... the testimony of three of my servants, whom I shall call and ordain, ... and they shall go forth with my words.

4. 11:15 I command you that you need not suppose that you are called to preach until you are called ... 

5. 18:14, 26-29 ... you are called to cry repentance unto this people. And now, behold, there are others who are called to declare my gospel ... Yea, even twelve ... And if they desire to take upon them my name with full purpose of heart, they are called to go into all the world to

¹Article of Faith, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Pearl of Great Price, 1959 ed., p. 60.
preach . . . And they are they who are ordained of me.

6. 18:31-32 And now I speak unto you, the Twelve . . . you are they who are ordained of me . . . to declare my gospel . . . according to the callings and gifts of God unto men.

7. 20:38-39, 42,46-48, 50-51, 58-60 . . . An apostle is an elder, and it is his calling to baptize; And to ordain other elders, priests, teachers, and deacons . . . And to teach, expound, exhort, . . . The priest's duty is to preach, teach, expound, exhort, . . . and exhort them . . . And he may also ordain other priests, teachers, and deacons. . . . preach, teach, expound, exhort, . . . exhorting them . . . teachers . . . deacons . . . are, however, to warn, expound, exhort, and teach, . . . Every elder, priest, teacher, or deacon is to be ordained . . . and he is to be ordained by the power of the Holy Ghost, which is in the one who ordains him.

8. 25:3-8 . . . and thou art an elect lady, whom I have called. . . . And thou shalt be ordained under his hand to expound scriptures, and to exhort the church. . . . For he shall lay his hands upon thee.

9. 29:4 . . . ye are chosen out of the world to declare my gospel.

10. 33:2 I say unto you that ye are called . . . to declare my gospel.

11. 34:5 . . . you are called of me to preach my gospel.

12. 36:1-2, 4-5, 7 . . . you are called to preach my gospel . . . And I will lay my hand upon you by the hand of my servant Sidney Rigdon. . . . And now this calling and commandment give I unto you concerning all men--
That as many as shall come before my servants Sidney Rigdon and Joseph Smith, Jun., embracing this calling and commandment, shall be ordained and sent forth to preach the everlasting gospel . . . And this commandment shall be given unto the elders of my church, that every man which will embrace it with singleness of heart may be ordained and sent forth.

13. 38:23 . . . teach one another according to the office wherewith I have appointed you.

14. 39:13-14, 19 Thou art called to labor . . . thou art not called to go into the eastern countries, but thou art called to go to the Ohio . . . Wherefore, go forth, crying with a loud voice, saying:

15. 42:11 Again I say unto you, that it shall not be given to any one to go forth to preach my gospel, or to build up my church, except he be ordained by some one who has authority, and it is known to the church that he has authority and has been regularly ordained by the heads of the church.

16. 43:7 . . . he that is ordained of me shall come in at the gate and be ordained as I have told you before, to teach those revelations which you have received and shall receive through him whom I have appointed.

17. 43:15 . . . hearken ye elders of my church, whom I have appointed: Ye are not sent forth to be taught, but to teach the children of men the things which I have put into your hands.

18. 49:3-4 Wherefore, I send you, my servants Sidney and Parley, to preach the gospel unto them. And my servant Leman shall be ordained unto this work.
19. 50:13-14, 17, 26 Wherefore, I the Lord ask you this question—unto what were ye ordained? To preach my gospel. . . . ordained of me and sent forth to preach. . . . ordained of God and sent forth.

20. 50:37-38 Let my servant Joseph Wakefield, in whom I am well pleased, and my servant Parley P. Pratt go forth among the churches and strengthen them by the word of exhortation; And also my servant John Corrill, or as many of my servants as are ordained unto this office.

21. 52:1, 9 . . . thus saith the Lord unto the elders whom he hath called and chosen in these last days . . . let them journey from thence preaching the word.

22. 53:3 Take upon you mine ordination, even that of an elder, to preach.

23. 55:2 And then thou shalt be ordained by the hand of my servant Joseph Smith, Jun., to be an elder unto this church, to preach . . . .

24. 63:57 . . . those who desire in their hearts, in meekness, to warn sinners to repentance, let them be ordained unto this power.

25. 68:1-3, 8 My servant, Orson Hyde, was called by his ordination to proclaim the everlasting gospel, . . . . all those who were ordained, unto this priesthood, whose mission is appointed unto them to go forth— . . . that they shall speak . . . Go ye into all the world, preach the gospel to every creature, acting in the authority which I have given you.

26. 79:1 . . . it is my will that my servant Jared Carter should go again into the eastern countries, from place to place, and from
city to city, in the power of the ordination wherewith he has been ordained, proclaiming glad tidings of great joy, even the everlasting gospel.

27. 84:86,122 . . . this commandment is unto all the faithful who are called of God in the church . . . that goeth forth to proclaim this gospel . . . Appoint among yourselves a teacher.

28. 90:11 . . . every man shall hear the fulness of the gospel in his own tongue, . . . through those who are ordained unto this power.

29. 99:1 . . . thou art called to go into the eastern countries . . . to proclaim mine everlasting gospel . . .

30. 100:9 . . . it is expedient in me that you, my servant Sidney, should be a spokesman unto this people; yea, verily, I will ordain you unto this calling.

31. 106:1-3 It is my will that my servant Warren A. Cowdery should be appointed and ordained a presiding high priest . . . And should preach my everlasting gospel, And devote his whole time to this high and holy calling.

32. 107:23, 35 The twelve traveling councilors are called to be the Twelve Apostles . . . The Twelve being sent out, holding the keys, to open the door by the proclamation of the gospel.

33. 107:25 The Seventy are also called to preach the gospel.

34. 107:85-87, 89, 99 . . . the duty of a president over the office of a deacon is to preside . . . to teach . . . the duty of the president
over the office of the teachers is to preside. . . . teaching them the duties of their office. . . . the duty of the president over the Priesthood of Aaron is to preside. . . . to teach them the duties of their office. . . . the duty of the president over the Priesthood of Aaron is to preside. . . . to teach them the duties of their office. . . . the duty of the president over the office of elders is . . . to teach them . . . . to act in the office. . . .

35. 108:4, 6 Wait patiently until the solemn assembly shall be called of my servants, then you shall be remembered with the first of mine elders, and receive right by ordination with the rest of mine elders whom I have chosen. . . . that you shall have right to preach my gospel.

36. 112:1, 6-7, 16 . . . thy brethren, who were chosen to bear testimony of my name and to send it abroad among all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people, and ordained through the instrumentality of my servants. . . . I, the Lord, have a great work for thee to do, in publishing my name . . . for thou art chosen. . . . thou art the man whom I have chosen.

37. 124:103-104 . . . let him arise and come up and stand in the office of his calling, . . . and he shall lift up his voice again on the mountains, and be a spokesman before my face.

From the foregoing references we have selected various words which denote authorization to orally communicate the gospel. Each use of the word or phrase is noted with its reference.
1. Ordained—2, 5, 6, 7, 7, 8, 12, 12, 15, 15, 16, 16, 18, 19, 19, 20, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28, 31, 36.
2. Ordination—22, 25, 26, 35.
5. Called—4, 4, 5, 5, 5, 8, 10, 11, 12, 14, 14, 14, 21, 25, 27, 29, 32, 33.
6. Calling—7, 12, 12, 30, 31, 37.
8. Call—3.
9. Chosen—1, 9, 21, 35, 36, 36, 36.
10. Appointed—13, 16, 17, 31.
11. Appoint—27.
13. Lay hand/hands upon, hand—8, 12, 12, 23.
15. Receive right by/have right to—35, 35.
17. Keys—32.

As pertaining to man's existence on the earth, priesthood is the power and authority of God delegated to man on earth to act in all things for the salvation of men. It is the power by which the gospel is preached; . . . There are in the Melchizedek Priesthood the following offices: elder, seventy, high priest, patriarch or evangelist, and apostle,
in the Aaronic Priesthood: deacon, teacher, priest and bishop. Each office is an ordained calling or assignment to serve, on a basis of primary responsibility, in a specified field of priestly responsibility.  

The following list is of offices in the priesthood and the frequency they are mentioned in the foregoing references on authority to orally communicate the gospel:

1. Deacon--7, 7, 7, 7, 34.
2. Teacher--7, 7, 7, 7, 34, 34.
3. Priest--7, 7, 7, 7.
4. Bishop ("president over the Priesthood of Aaron")--34.
5. Elder--7, 7, 7, 12, 17, 21, 22, 23, 34, 35, 35.
8. Apostles ("twelve")--5, 6, 32.

Now follows from the foregoing references various ways of orally communicating the gospel for which authorization of the Lord is mentioned:

1. Preach/preaching--4, 5, 7, 7, 11, 12, 12, 15, 18, 19, 19, 21, 22, 23, 25, 31, 33, 35.
2. Teach/teaching--7, 7, 7, 13, 16, 17, 34, 34, 34, 34.

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2Mormon Doctrine, pp. 594-595.
4. Expound--7, 7, 7, 7, 8.

5. Declare--5, 6, 9, 10.

6. Proclaim/proclaiming/proclamation--25, 26, 27, 29, 32.

7. Testimony--3, 36.

8. Voice--1, 14, 37.


10. Speak--25.

11. Deliver words--2.


The Doctrine and Covenants issues this warning from the Lord to those who would orally communicate his gospel without his authority:

Wherefore, let all men beware how they take my name in their lips--For behold, verily I say, that many there be who are under this condemnation, who use the name of the Lord, and use it in vain, not having authority.\(^3\)

The writer believes that there is ample evidence from the Doctrine and Covenants to show that those who

\(^3\)Doctrine and Covenants, 63:61-62.
would speak for the Lord in orally communicating his gospel must have his authorization.
Chapter 5

ORAL MEANS OF COMMUNICATING

In the Doctrine and Covenants it is apparent that
the Lord uses several means by which his gospel is to be
orally communicated. It would be enlightening if one
could appreciate the choice of words which the Lord uses
in the Doctrine and Covenants when he describes the ways
of communicating. Here then is a lengthy list of refer-
ences incorporating oral means of communicating the gospel:

1. 1:4 . . . the voice of warning . . . by the
mouths of my disciples.

2. 1:14 the voice of his servants, . . . the
words of the prophets and apostles.

3. 1:18 . . . that they should proclaim these
things.

4. 1:19, 23 . . . every man might speak in the name
of God . . . my gospel might be proclaimed.

5. 1:38 . . . by the voice of my servants.

6. 5:6 . . . go forth and deliver my words.

7. 5:25, 26, 29 he shall say unto the people . . . he
shall say no more . . . except he shall
say: . . . these are the words which he
shall say. . . . you shall say unto him.

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8. 6:9 Say nothing but repentance.
9. 7:3 . . . and shalt prophesy before nations.
10. 10:48 . . . they might preach in their days.
11. 10:68 Whosoever declareth more or less than this, . . .
12. 11:9 Say nothing but repentance.
13. 11:15 . . . suppose that you are called to preach until you are called.
14. 11:21 . . . to declare my word . . . then shall your tongue be loosed.
15. 14:8 . . . the Holy Ghost, which giveth utterance . . . you may declare repentance.
16. 15:5-6 . . . for speaking my words . . . to declare repentance.
17. 16: 5-6 . . . for speaking my words . . . to declare repentance.
18. 18:14-15 . . . cry repentance unto this people . . . crying repentance unto this people.
19. 18:21 . . . speak the truth.
20. 18:26 . . . declare my gospel.
22. 18:32, 35 . . . you can read them one to another.
23. 18:41 . . . preach unto the world, saying:
25. 19:29, 31 . . . declare glad tidings, yea, publish it . . . And of tenets thou shalt not talk, but thou shalt declare repentance.
26. 19:37 And speak freely to all; yea, preach, exhort, declare the truth, even with a loud voice, with a sound of rejoicing, crying.

27. 20:9, 16 . . . and is declared unto the world by them-- . . . have heard and bear witness.

28. 20:26 . . . spake as they were inspired.

29. 20:42, 46-47, 50-51, 59 And to teach, expound, exhort. . . . to preach, teach, expound, exhort, . . . and exhort them to pray . . . to preach, teach, expound, exhort . . . exhorting them to pray . . . to warn, expound, exhort, and teach.

30. 20:68 . . . to expound all things concerning the church.

31. 21:4-5, 9 . . . give heed unto all his words . . . his word ye shall receive, as if from mine own mouth . . . they shall believe on his words.

32. 23:2 . . . to preach the truth.

33. 23:3 . . . thy tongue loosed; . . . thy calling is to exhortation.

34. 23:4 . . . thy calling is to exhortation . . . to preach before the world.

35. 23:5 . . . thy calling also is to exhortation.

36. 23:7 . . . give your language to exhortation.

37. 24:5-6 . . . expounding all scriptures . . . what thou shalt speak.

38. 24:9-10 . . . to expound all scriptures . . . continue in bearing my name before the world . . . say enough in my cause.
39. 24:12 ... open his mouth ... declare my gospel ... the voice of a trump.

40. 25:7 ... to expound scriptures ... to exhort the church.

41. 26:1 ... and to preaching, and to confirming.

42. 27:6 ... all things spoken by the mouth.

43. 28:1 ... thou shalt teach them by the Comforter.

44. 28:3 ... declare faithfully the commandments.

45. 28:4 ... by the Comforter to speak or teach.

46. 28:8, 10 ... preach my gospel ... receive thy teachings ... what he saith to thee thou shalt tell.

47. 28:16 ... open thy mouth at all times, declaring my gospel with the sound of rejoicing.

48. 29:4 ... declare my gospel ... sound of rejoicing ... voice of a trump.

49. 29:10 ... that which was spoken by mine apostles ... as they spoke so shall it come to pass.

50. 30:5 ... open your mouth to declare my gospel.

51. 30:9, 11 ... proclaim my gospel ... with the voice of a trump ... open your mouth in my cause.

52. 31:3-4 ... tongue shall be loosed, ... declare glad tidings ... declare the things which have been revealed ... preach from this time forth.
53. 32:1  . . . declare my gospel.
54. 33:2  . . . lift up your voices as with the sound of a trump, to declare my gospel.
55. 33:8-10 Open your mouths and they shall be filled . . . open your mouths . . . open your mouths and they shall be filled, saying: Repent.
56: 34:5-6, 10 . . . preach my gospel-- . . . lift up your voice as with the sound of a trump . . . cry repentance . . . lift up your voice . . . therefore prophesy.
57. 35:15 . . . shall have the gospel preached unto them.
58. 35:58 . . . it shall be given unto him to prophesy, and thou shalt preach my gospel.
59. 36:1, 3, 5-6 . . . preach my gospel as with the voice of a trump . . . declare it with a loud voice, saying: Hosanna . . . sent forth to preach the everlasting gospel . . . Crying repentance, saying:
60. 37:2 . . . preached my gospel.
61. 38:23 . . . teach one another.
62. 38:41 . . . let your preaching be the warning voice.
63. 39:11, 19 . . . preach the fulness of my gospel. . . . go forth, crying with a loud voice, saying: crying: Hosanna!
64. 42:6-7 . . . preaching my gospel . . . lifting up your voices as with the sound of a trump, declaring . . . saying: Repent ye.
65. 42:11-12, 13-16 . . . go forth to preach . . . teach the principles of my gospel . . . these shall be their teachings . . . if ye receive
not the Spirit ye shall not teach . . .

66. 42:39 . . . which I spake by the mouths of my prophets.

67. 42:57-58 . . . not teach them until . . . then ye shall teach.

68. 42:64 . . . teach them that shall be converted.

69. 43:7-9 . . . teach those revelations which you have received . . . ye shall instruct and edify each other . . . become instructed in the law.

70. 43:15 Ye are not sent forth to be taught, but to teach.

71. 43:20, 25, 28, 30 Lift up your voices . . . Call upon the nations . . . saying: Prepare yourselves. . . . I called upon you by the mouth of my servants. . . . call upon the inhabitants of the earth. . . . which I have spoken by the mouth of my servants.

72. 44:3 . . . and preach repentance.

73. 45:64 . . . call upon the inhabitants to repent.

74. 46:14 . . . to believe on their words.

75. 46:17-18 . . . to some is given, by the Spirit of God, the word of wisdom. To another is given the word of knowledge, that all may be taught.

76. 46:22, 24 . . . to others it is given to prophesy; . . . to speak with tongues.

77. 47:2 . . . lift up his voice in meetings.
78. 49:1, 3  ... preach my gospel ... preach the gospel.

79. 49:11  ... say unto them, like unto mine apostle of old.

80. 50:14, 17, 21-22  ... preach my gospel ... preach the word of truth ... preach it by the Spirit ... preached by the Spirit ... he that preacheth and he that receiveth, understand one another.

81. 50:36  ... hearing these words of mine from the mouth of my servant.

82. 50:37  ... strengthen them by the word of exhortation.

83. 52:9-10, 16  ... preaching the word by the way, saying ... preach by the way ... He that speaketh, whose spirit is contrite.

84. 52:22-23, 25-27, 36  ... preaching the word ... preaching the word ... preach by the way ... preach by the way ... preach by the way. ... declaring none other things than the prophets.

85. 52:39  ... declare the word.

86. 53:3  ... preach faith and repentance.

87. 55:2  ... preach repentance.

88. 57:10  ... that my gospel may be preached.

89. 58:6, 8  ... bear testimony of the things which are to come ... the mouths of the prophets shall not fail.

90. 58:46-47  ... preach the gospel ... preach by the way ... bear testimony of the truth.
91. 58:59 . . . bear record by the way.

92. 58:63-64 . . . preaching the gospel . . . the sound must go forth . . . preached unto every creature.

93. 60:2, 7-8, 13 . . . open their mouths, . . . lift up their voice and declare my word with loud voices . . . preach the word . . . preach my gospel.

94. 60:14 . . . proclaimed my word . . . proclaiming my word.

95. 61:4 . . . that ye might bear record.

96. 61:30, 33 . . . shall not open their mouths in the congregations of the wicked until . . . declare the word.

97. 62:3, 5 . . . ye are blessed, for the testimony which ye have borne . . . return to bear record . . . declare glad tidings.

98. 63:37 . . . lift a warning voice . . . and declare both by word.

99. 63:51 . . . for this cause preached the apostles.

100. 63:64 . . . must be spoken with care.

101. 66:5 . . . proclaim my gospel . . . where it has not been proclaimed.

102. 68:1, 3, 6, 8 . . . proclaim the everlasting gospel . . . expounding all scriptures unto them . . . speak as they are moved upon by the Holy Ghost . . . speak when moved upon by the Holy Ghost . . . and ye shall bear record of me . . . preach the gospel.

103. 68:25, 28 . . . teach them . . . they shall also teach their children to pray.
104. 69:8  Preaching and expounding.
105. 71:1-2, 4, 7  ... open your mouths in proclaiming expounding . . . proclaim unto the world . . . Call upon the inhabitants of the earth . . . bear record . . . call upon them to meet you.
106. 73:1, 4  . . . should continue preaching the gospel, and in exhortation. . . . preach in the regions.
107. 75:2, 4, 9, 13  . . . proclaim the things which I have commanded them. . . . proclaim the things which I have commanded them.
108. 75:15  . . . proclaim my gospel.
109. 75:24  . . . proclaim the gospel.
110. 79:1  . . . proclaiming glad tidings.
111. 80:3-4  . . . preach my gospel . . . preach the gospel . . . the sound of your voice. . . . declare the things which ye have heard.
112. 81:3  . . . proclaiming the gospel.
113. 84:2  . . . spoken by the mouth of his prophets.
114. 84:23  . . . Moses plainly taught to the children of Israel.
115. 84:57  . . . not only to say, but to do according to that which I have written.
116. 84:61  . . . in bearing testimony.
117. 84:64  . . . every soul who believeth on your words.
118. 84:76,77  . . . it must be preached unto them, . . . preach the gospel . . . preach this gospel.
119. 84:85-87, 94-95 Neither take ye thought beforehand what ye shall say . . . proclaim this gospel . . . teach them of a judgment which is to come . . . your words, or your testimony concerning me . . . your words, or your testimony of me.

120. 84:103 . . . proclaim mine everlasting gospel.

121. 84:114 . . . warn the people of those cities with the sound of the gospel, with a loud voice.

122. 85:7 . . . whose mouth shall utter words, eternal words.

123. 86:10 . . . spoken by the mouths of all the holy prophets.

124. 88:77-78 . . . teach one another . . . Teach ye diligently . . . that you may be instructed more perfectly.

125. 88:118, 120, 122 . . . teach one another . . . that all your salutations may be in the name of the Lord . . . let one speak at a time . . . when all have spoken that all may be edified of all.

126. 88:127, 129, 132, 134-137 . . . the school of the prophets, established for their instruction . . . hear his words carefully and distinctly . . . salute his brother or brethren with these words. . . . found unworthy of this salutation . . . they shall salute the president . . . this is an ensample unto you for a salutation . . . as the Spirit shall give utterance.

127. 90:9 . . . that may receive the word . . . the word may go forth.

128. 93:42, 48 You have not taught your children light and truth . . . give more earnest heed unto your sayings.
129. 93:51 ... proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.
130. 95:16 ... for your preaching.
131. 97:5 ... in expounding all scriptures.
132. 97:13 ... a place of instruction for all those who are called.
133. 98:16 ... proclaim peace.
134. 98:134 ... to proclaim mine everlasting gospel ... declare my word.
135. 99:8 ... proclaiming my gospel.
136. 100:5-7, 11 ... lift up your voices unto this people; speak ... what ye shall say ... declare whatsoever thing ye declare in my name. ... be mighty in expounding all scriptures.
137. 103:29 ... lift up his voice.
138. 104:26 ... proclaiming of my words.
139. 105:10 ... that my people may be taught more perfectly.
140. 105:24-25 Talk not of judgments ... saying unto the people: Execute judgment.
141. 105:39-40 ... make a proclamation of peace ... make proposals for peace.
142. 106:2 ... preach my everlasting gospel, and lift up his voice.
143. 107:25 ... preach the gospel.
144. 107:35, 38 ... the proclamation of the gospel ... preaching and administering the gospel.
145. 107:56 ... predicted whatsoever should befall his posterity.
146. 107:85-87, . . . teach them their duty . . . teaching them the duties . . . teach them the duties . . . teach them according to the covenants.

147. 108:6-7 . . . preach my gospel . . . strengthen your brethren in all your conversation . . . in all your exhortations.

148. 109:7, 9, 14, 19 . . . teach one another words of wisdom, . . . That your incomings may be in the name of the Lord, that your outgoings may be in the name of the Lord, that all your salutations may be in the name of the Lord . . . may be taught words of wisdom . . . that all their salutations may be in the name of the Lord.

149. 109:23 . . . from this place they may bear exceedingly great and glorious tidings . . . spoken by the mouths of the prophets.

150. 109:29, 31 . . . shall be proclaimed in their ears. . . . bearing record of thy name.

151. 109:36 . . . let the gift of tongues be poured out.

152. 109:38 . . . proclaim thy word.

153. 109:41 . . . spoken by the mouths of thy prophets.

154. 109:45 . . . thou hast spoken by the mouth of thy prophets.

155. 109:56 . . . to bear testimony of thy name.

156. 109:80 . . . thy saints shout.

157. 110:14 . . . spoken of by the mouth of Malachi.
... chosen to bear testimony of my name ... shall bear record of my name ... send forth my word ... let thy warning voice go forth ... let not the inhabitants of the earth slumber, because of thy speech ... by thy word many high ones shall be brought low, and by thy word many low ones shall be exalted. Thy voice shall be a rebuke unto the transgressor.

... ye shall proclaim my name ... preach my gospel.

... bear glad tidings unto all the world.

... continue to preach ... promulgate my gospel, ... bear record of my name.

... thy voice shall be more terrible in the midst of thine enemies.

Call ye, therefore, upon them with loud proclamation, and with your testimony.

... continue in preaching.

... And let him lift up his voice.

... proclaim my everlasting gospel with a loud voice.

... and shall give him, in the very hour, what he shall say ... let him not withhold his voice ... let my servant William cry aloud.

... he shall lift up his voice ... and be a spokesman before my face. ... lift up his voice as with the sound of a trump.

... lay aside all his hard speeches.
170. 127:10 ... with exceedingly great desire, to have addressed them.

171. 128:23 ... let all the sons of God shout for joy!

172. 133:6, 8-10 ... and speak often one to another. ... call upon all nations ... this shall be their cry ... let the cry go forth among all people.

173. 133:37-38 And this gospel shall be preached ... go forth, saying with a loud voice.

174. 134:12 We believe it just to preach the gospel ... preach the gospel.

175. 136:16 ... go and teach this, my will, to the saints.

176. 136:24 ... let your words tend to edifying.

177. Manifesto ... that in public discourses the leaders of the Church have taught ...

178. Manifesto ... declare that these charges are false. We are not teaching ... I hereby declare my intention ... There is nothing in my teachings to the Church ... appeared to convey any such teaching ... And I now publicly declare.

179. Manifesto ... the Manifesto which has been read in our hearing, we accept his declaration.

When a word had more than one definition, a determination had to be made as to what meaning was intended. For example, here is a partial dictionary definition of the word, "publish":

1. To discover or make known to mankind or to people in general what before was private or unknown;
to divulge, as a private transaction; to promulgate or proclaim, as a law or edict. . . . Christ and his apostles published the glad tidings of salvation.

2. To send a book into the world; or to sell or offer for sale a book, map or print.\(^1\)

From a historical study of the Doctrine and Covenants the writer could only discover one possible instance where the word "publish" fell under the first dictionary definition and could be used in this chapter on the means of communicating orally. Other determinations had to be made on words that could be used in a dual sense of both being a means of orally communicating and also conveying a message. For the purpose of this thesis the following words from the foregoing references will not be tabulated in this chapter but will be included in the next chapter on messages: Record, Testify, Testified, Testimony, Warn and Witness.

\(^1\)This and all other dictionary definitions in this thesis will be taken from Noah Webster's An American Dictionary of the English Language in two volumes, published by S. Converse, New York, and printed in 1828. This makes the dictionary somewhat contemporary to the revelations in the Doctrine and Covenants and to the organization of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in April 1830. (Reprint of original 1828 edition was obtained from Johnson Reprint Corporation, New York and London, 1970.)
Here, then, in the order of frequency in which they are used are words from the foregoing references which in the writer's view denotes a means of orally communicating the gospel:

1. Preach--preached--preacheth--preaching. 68
2. Teach--teaching--teachings--taught. 38
3. Declare--declared--declareth--declaration. 36
4. Voice--voices. 33
5. Proclaim--proclaimed--proclaiming--proclamation. 32
6. Speak--spake--spoke--spoken--speech--speeches--speaking--speaketh. 30
7. Say--saith--saying--sayings. 25
8. Words--word. 22
9. Mouth--mouths. 20
10. Bear--bearing--borne. 17
11. Exhort--exhortation--exhortations. 15
12. Expound--expounding. 13
13. Sound. 11
14. Cry--crying. 9

2The number following the word or words indicates the approximate number of times these expressions were used in the foregoing references.
It is significant that all of these terms would be used in the Doctrine and Covenants to describe ways of telling the gospel message. In fact the word "tell" itself is used only once in all of the foregoing references. It is the writer's view that the very choice of words
carries a message to us, both by their definition and by their repetition.

Let us consider the word used more frequently than all others—the word preach. Of the thirty-two categories of words, the category of preach is used more frequently than the combined categories from numbers 13 through 32. Here are some dictionary definitions for "preach":

To pronounce a public discourse on a religious subject, or from a text of scripture . . . . To discourse on the gospel way of salvation and exhort to repentance. To preach Christ or Christ crucified, to announce Christ as the only Savior, and his atonement as the only ground of acceptance with God.3

Of the foregoing references, preaching, both by definition and emphasis, is to be the central means or way of orally communicating the gospel.

Next, but a distance second in frequency mentioned, is the category of teaching. Its significance should be obvious to those who are desirous to do even more than just tell about the gospel, but want to teach it.

Of note are categories 3 and 5. The combined totals of the "Declare" and "Proclaim" categories equal

3Noah Webster, An American Dictionary of the English Language.
that of preaching. Their ranking prompts some dictionary definitions: "Declare . . . To make known; to tell explicitly; to manifest or communicate plainly to others by words." 4 "Proclaim . . . To promulgate; to announce; to publish . . . To declare with honor; as to proclaim the name of the Lord." 5

These categories give a thrust to preaching and teaching they would not otherwise have. They sound of vigor, clarity and forthrightness.

Categories 4, 6, 7, 8, and 9 have to do with Voice, Speak, Say, Words and Mouth. They talk of using the natural equipment which God has provided--of speaking up and out.

Exhort and expound are used frequently together in the Doctrine and Covenants and they rank near to each other in frequency used as category 11 and 12. Here are some dictionary definitions for these words: "Exhort. To incite by words or advice, to animate or urge by arguments to a good deed or to any laudable conduct or course of action." 6 "Expound. To explain; to lay open the meaning;

4 Ibid. 5 Ibid. 6 Ibid.
to clear of obscurity; to interpret; as, to *expound* a text of scripture."\(^7\)

Thus the Doctrine and Covenants points out that the oral communicator of the gospel can both encourage and enlighten through exhortation and expounding.

Each category has a place and function as a means in orally communicating the gospel. To remind us again of its importance, the Prophet Joseph Smith stated: "After all that has been said, the greatest and most important duty is to preach the Gospel."\(^8\)

\(^{7}\)Ibid.

Chapter 6

MESSAGES TO COMMUNICATE

In this chapter we shall examine from the Doctrine and Covenants the messages or types of messages, including what is expedient, in orally communicating the gospel.

The references are numerous.

1. 1:4 . . . the voice of warning shall be unto all people, by the mouths of my disciples.

2. 1:8 . . . they who go forth, bearing these tidings.

3. 1:14 . . . they who will not hear the voice of the Lord, neither the voice of his servants, neither give heed to the words of the prophets and apostles, shall be cut off.

4. 1:17-18, 20, 23-24 . . . called upon my servant Joseph Smith, Jun., and spake unto him from heaven, and gave him commandments; And also gave commandments to others, that they should proclaim these things. . . . that every man might speak in the name of God the Lord, even the Savior of the world; . . . That the fulness of my gospel might be proclaimed . . . these commandments are of me, and were given unto my servants in their weakness, after the manner of their language, that they might come to understanding.

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5. 5:6  . . . go forth and deliver my words unto the children of men.

6. 5:11, 15  . . . in addition to your testimony, the testimony of three of my servants . . . and they shall go forth with my words that are given through you. . . . And the testimony of three witnesses will I send forth of my word.

7. 5:25-26  And then he shall say unto the people of this generation: Behold, I have seen the things which the Lord hath shown unto Joseph Smith, Jun., and I know of a surety that they are true, for I have seen them, for they have been shown unto me by the power of God and not of man. And I the Lord command him, my servant Martin Harris, that he shall say no more unto them concerning these things, except he shall say: I have seen them, and they have been shown unto me by the power of God.

8. 6:9  Say nothing but repentance unto this generation.

9. 6:31  . . . if they reject not my words, which shall be established by the testimony which shall be given . . .

10. 10:48-49  . . . that my gospel, which gave unto them that they might preach in their days . . . . this gospel should be made known.

11. 10:67-68  Behold, this is my doctrine--whosoever repenteth and cometh unto me, the same is my chosen. Whosoever declareth more or less than this, the same is not of me.

12. 11:9  Say nothing but repentance unto this generation.

13. 11:15, 21  . . . called to preach . . . my word, my rock, my church, and my gospel, that you
may know of a surety my doctrine. . . .
Seek not to declare my word, but first
seek to obtain my word . . . then, if you
desire, you shall have my Spirit and my
word.

14. 14:8 . . . you shall receive the Holy Ghost,
which giveth utterance, that you may
stand as a witness of the things of which
you shall both hear and see . . . you may
declare repentance unto this generation.

15. 15:5-6 Behold, blessed are you for this thing,
and for speaking my words which I have
given you according to my commandments.
. . . the thing which will be of the
most worth unto you will be to declare
repentance.

16. 16:5-6 . . . blessed are you for this thing, and
for speaking my words which I have given
unto you according to my commandments.
. . . the thing which will be of the most
worth unto you will be to declare repen-
tance unto this people.

17. 1-3, 5 . . . you shall have a view of the plates,
and also of the breastplate, the sword of
Laban, the Urim and Thummim . . . and the
miraculous directors . . . . And after
that you have obtained faith, and have
seen them with your eyes, you shall
testify of them . . . . And ye shall
testify that you have seen them.

18. 18:14-15 Wherefore, you are called to cry repen-
tance unto this people. And if it so be
that you should labor all your days in
crying repentance unto this people . . .

19. 18:18 . . . you shall have the Holy Ghost,
which manifesteth all things which are
expedient unto the children of men.

20. 18:20 . . . speak the truth in soberness.
... there are others who are called to declare my gospel... they are called to go into all the world to preach my gospel.

... declare my gospel, according to the power of the Holy Ghost which is in you. ... These words are not of men nor of man, but of me; wherefore, you shall testify they are of me and not of man; ... you can testify that you have heard my voice and know my words.

And you must preach unto the world, saying: You must repent and be baptized, in the name of Jesus Christ.

... preach naught but repentance, and show not these things unto the world until it is wisdom in me. For they cannot bear meat now, but milk they must receive; wherefore, they must not know these things, lest they perish.

And thou shalt declare glad tidings... reviling not against revilers. And of tenets thou shalt not talk, but thou shalt declare repentance and faith on the Savior, and remission of sins by baptism, and by fire, yea, even the Holy Ghost.

... preach, exhort, declare the truth... crying--Hosanna, hosanna, blessed be the name of the Lord God!

... the Book of Mormon; ... declared unto the world by them--Proving to the world that the holy scriptures are true, and that God does inspire men and call them to his holy work in this age and generation, as well as in generations of old; Thereby showing that he is the same God yesterday, today, and forever. Amen. ... and we, the elders of the church,
have heard and bear witness to the words of the glorious Majesty on high . . .
who believed in the words of the holy prophets, who spake as they were inspired by the gift of the Holy Ghost, who truly testified of him in all things . . .

28. 20:38, 42
The duty of the elders . . . to teach, expound, exhort, . . . The priest's duty is to preach, teach, expound, exhort . . . exhort them to pray vocally and in secret and attend to all family duties. . . . to take the lead of meetings when there is no elder present; But when there is an elder present, he is only to preach, teach, expound, exhort, . . . exhorting them to pray vocally and in secret and attend to all family duties. . . . But neither teachers nor deacons have authority to baptize, administer the sacrament or lay on hands; They are, however, to warn, expound, exhort, and teach, and invite all to come unto Christ.

29. 20:68
The elders or priests are to have a sufficient time to expound all things concerning the church of Christ to their understanding.

30. 21:4, 9
. . . thou shalt give heed unto all his words and commandments which he shall give unto you . . . they shall believe on his words, which are given him through me by the Comforter, which manifesteth that Jesus was crucified by sinful men for the sins of the world, yea, for the remission of sins unto the contrite heart.

31. 23:2
. . . thy heart shall be opened to preach the truth.

32. 24:5-6, 9
And thou shalt continue in . . . expounding all scriptures unto the church. And it shall be given thee in the very moment what thou shalt speak . . . . Attend to
thy calling and thou shalt have wherewith to magnify thine office, and to expound all scriptures.

33. 24:9-11 . . . to expound all scriptures . . . And thy brother Oliver shall continue in bearing my name before the world . . . he shall not suppose that he can say enough in my cause.

34. 24:12 . . . he shall open his mouth and declare my gospel.

35. 25:7 . . . to expound scriptures, and to exhort the church, according as it shall be given thee by my Spirit.

36. 27:6 . . . the restoration of all things spoken by the mouth of all the holy prophets since the world began, concerning the last days.

37. 28:1 . . . thou shalt be heard by the church in all things whatsoever thou shalt teach them by the Comforter, concerning the revelations and commandments which I have given.

38. 28:3 . . . declare faithfully the commandments and the revelations.

39. 28:8, 10 . . . preach my gospel unto them; and inasmuch as they receive thy teachings . . . . my servant Joseph shall be appointed to preside over the conference by the voice of it, and what he saith to thee thou shalt tell.

40. 28:16 . . . open thy mouth at all times, declaring my gospel.

41. 29:4 . . . declare my gospel.

42. 30:5 . . . open your mouth to declare my gospel.
43. 30:9  . . . thou shalt commence from this time forth to proclaim my gospel.

44. 31:3-4 6, 9  . . . and you shall declare glad tidings of great joy . . . declare the things which have been revealed to my servant, Joseph Smith, Jun. . . . declare my word . . . revile not against those that revile.

45. 32:1  . . . I will that he shall declare my gospel.

46. 33:2  . . . lift up your voices as with the sound of a trump, to declare my gospel.

47. 33:10-12, 16  . . . open your mouths and they shall be filled, saying: Repent, repent, and prepare ye the way of the Lord, and make his paths straight; for the kingdom of heaven is at hand; Yea, repent and be baptized every one of you, for a remission of your sins; yea, be baptized even by water, and then cometh the baptism of fire and of the Holy Ghost. Behold, verily, verily, I say unto you, this is my gospel. . . . And the Book of Mormon and the holy scriptures are given of me for your instruction.

48. 34:5-6  . . . you are called of me to preach my gospel--To lift up your voice . . . and cry repentance.

49. 35:5  And the poor and the meek shall have the gospel preached unto them.

50. 35:23  . . . and thou shalt preach my gospel and call on the holy prophets to prove his words as they shall be given him.

51. 36:1, 3, 5-6  . . . you are called to preach my gospel . . . you shall declare it with a loud voice, saying: Hosanna, blessed be the name of the most high God. . . . sent
forth to preach the everlasting gospel among the nations—Crying repentance, saying: Save yourselves from this untoward generation, and come forth out of the fire, hating even the garments spotted with the flesh.

52. 37:2 . . . ye shall not go until ye have preached my gospel in those parts.

53. 38:41 . . . let your preaching be the warning voice.

54. 39:11, 19 . . . Thou shalt preach the fulness of my gospel, which I have sent forth in these last days, the covenant which I have sent forth to recover my people . . . go forth, crying with a loud voice, saying: The kingdom of heaven is at hand; crying: Hosanna! blessed be the name of the Most High God.

55. 41:5-6 . . . He that receiveth my law and doeth it, the same is my disciple . . . . For it is not meet that the things which belong to the children of the kingdom should be given to them that are not worthy or to dogs, or the pearls to be cast before swine.

56: 42:6-7 . . . go forth in the power of my Spirit, preaching my gospel . . . in my name . . . declaring my word like unto angels of God. . . . saying: Repent ye, repent ye, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

57. 42:11-13 . . . go forth to preach my gospel . . . . . teach the principles of my gospel, which are in the Bible and the Book of Mormon in the which is the fulness of the gospel. And they shall observe the covenants and church articles to do them, and these shall be their teachings, . . . all this shall observe to do as I have commanded concerning your teaching . . . . And as
ye shall lift up your voices by the
Comforter, ye shall speak and prophesy
as seemeth me good.

58. 42:39  . . . that which I spake by the mouths
of my prophets shall be fulfilled.

59. 42:56-58  Thou shalt ask, and my scriptures shall
be given . . . it is expedient that
thou shouldst hold thy peace concerning
them, and not teach them until ye have
received them in full. . . . then ye shall
teach them unto all men; for they shall be
taught unto all nations, kindreds, tongues
and people.

60. 42:64  . . . teach them that shall be converted
to flee to the west, and this in conse-
quence of that which is coming on the
earth.

61. 43:7-9  . . . teach those revelations which you
have received and shall receive through
him whom I have appointed. . . . ye shall
instruct and edify each other, that ye
may know how to act and direct my church,
how to act upon the points of my law and
commandments . . . . And thus ye shall
become instructed in the law of my
church.

62. 43:15  . . . Ye are not sent forth to be taught,
but to teach the children of men the
things which I have put into your hands
by the power of my Spirit.

63. 43:20-21,
25  . . . Call upon the nations to repeat,
. . . saying: Prepare yourselves for the
great day of the Lord; For if I, who am a
man, do lift up my voice and call upon
you to repent . . . . How oft have I
called upon you by the mouth of my ser-
vants.

64. 44:3  . . . preach repentance unto the people.
65. 45:64  . . . go ye forth into the western countries, call upon the inhabitants to repent.

66. 45:72  . . . keep these things from going abroad unto the world until it is expedient in me.

67. 46:13-14  . . . to know that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and that he was crucified for the sins of the world. To others it is given to believe on their words.

68. 46:17-18  . . . to some is given, by the Spirit of God, the word of wisdom. To another is given the word of knowledge, that all may be taught to be wise and to have knowledge.

69. 49:1, 3-4  . . . you shall go and preach my gospel which ye have received, even as ye have received it. . . . preach the gospel unto them. . . . reason with them . . . according to that which shall be taught him by you my servants.

70. 49:11-14  . . . go among this people, and say unto them, like unto mine apostle of old, whose name was Peter: Believe on the name of the Lord Jesus, who was on the earth, and is to come, the beginning and the end; Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, according to the holy commandment, for the remission of sins; And whoso doeth this shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost, for the laying on of the hands of the elders of the church.

71. 50:13-15, 17-23  . . . I the Lord ask you this question—unto what were ye ordained? To preach my gospel by the Spirit, even the Comforter which was sent forth to teach the truth. And then received ye spirits which ye could not understand. . . .
... he that is ordained of me and sent forth to preach the word of truth by the Comforter, in the Spirit of truth, doth he preach it by the Spirit of truth or some other way? And if it be by some other way it is not of God. And again, he that receiveth the word of truth, doth he receive it by the Spirit of truth or some other way? If it be some other way it is not of God. Therefore, why is it that ye cannot understand and know, that he that receiveth the word by the Spirit of truth receiveth it as it is preached by the Spirit of truth? Wherefore, he that preacheth and he that receiveth, understand one another, and both are edified and rejoice together. And that which doth not edify is not of God, and is darkness.

72. 50:36 ... hearing these words of mine from the mouth of my servant.

73. 50:37 ... go forth among the churches and strengthen them by the word of exhortation.

74. 52:9 ... preaching the word by the way, saying none other things than that which the prophets and apostles have written, and that which is taught them by the Comforter.

75. 52:22-23 ... preaching the word by the way. 

76. 52:36 ... declaring none other things than the prophets and apostles, that which they have seen and heard and most assuredly believe.

77. 52:39 ... declare the word in the regions round about.
78. 53:3  . . . preach faith and repentance and remission of sins, according to my word, and the reception of the Holy Spirit by the laying on of hands.

79. 55:2  . . . preach repentance and remission of sins by way of baptism in the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God.

80. 57:10  . . . that my gospel may be preached.

81. 58:6, 13  . . . bear testimony of the things which are to come . . . that the testimony might go forth.

82. 58:46-47  . . . let them preach the gospel in the regions round about. . . . Let them preach by the way, and bear testimony of the truth in all places, and call upon the rich, the high and the low, and the poor to repent.

83. 58:59  . . . bear record by the way, of that which he knows and most assuredly believes.

84. 58:63-64  And let them also return preaching the gospel by the way, bearing record of the things which are revealed unto them. . . . the gospel must be preached unto every creature.

85. 60:7-8, 13  . . . let them lift up their voice and declare my word . . . take their journey from St. Louis, two by two, and preach the word . . . they have been sent to preach my gospel.

86. 60:14  . . . thou hast come up into the land of Zion, and hast proclaimed my word, thou shalt speedily return, proclaiming my word.

87. 61:4, 18  . . . that ye might bear record . . . there are many dangers upon the waters, and more especially hereafter; . . .
you shall forewarn your brethren concerning these waters, that they come not in journeying upon them, lest their faith fail and they are caught in snares.

88. 61:33 . . . let them journey and declare the word . . . inasmuch as it is given.

89. 62:3, 5 . . . ye are blessed, for the testimony which ye have borne . . . And then you may return to bear record, . . . declare glad tidings.

90. 63:37, 46 . . . lift a warning voice . . . and declare . . . that desolation shall come upon the wicked . . . And now speedily visit the churches, expounding these things unto them.

91. 63:52 . . . preached the apostles unto the world the resurrection of the dead.

92. 63:57-58 . . . warn sinners to repentance . . . For this is a day of warning, and not a day of many words.

93. 66:5, 7 . . . it is my will that you should proclaim my gospel . . . bear testimony in every place, unto every people and in their synagogues, reasoning with the people.

94. 68:1, 4, 6, 8, 25, 28 . . . proclaim the everlasting gospel, by the Spirit of the living God . . . reasoning with and expounding all scriptures unto them . . . whatsoever they shall speak when moved upon by the Holy Ghost shall be scripture, shall be the will of the Lord, shall be the mind of the Lord, shall be the word of the Lord, shall be the voice of the Lord, and the power of God unto salvation . . . and ye shall bear record of me, even Jesus Christ, that I am the Son of the living God, that I was, that I am, and that I am to come. . . . Go ye into all the
world, preach the gospel . . . inasmuch as parents have children in Zion, or in any of her stakes which are organized, that teach them not to understand the doctrine of repentance, faith in Christ the Son of the living God, and of baptism and the gift of the Holy Ghost by the laying on of the hands . . . teach their children to pray, and to walk uprightly before the Lord.

95. 69:7-8 Nevertheless, let my servant John Whitmer travel many times from place to place . . . . Preaching and expounding.

96. 71:1, 4 . . . open your mouths in proclaiming my gospel, the things of the kingdom, expounding the mysteries thereof out of the scriptures, according to that portion of Spirit and power which shall be given unto you, even as I will. . . . Call upon the inhabitants of the earth, and bear record.

97. 73:1 . . . continue preaching the gospel.

98. 75:2, 4, 9, 13 . . . go forth to proclaim my gospel, . . . proclaiming the truth according to the revelations and commandments . . . . proclaim the things which I have commanded them . . . . proclaim the things which I have commanded them.

99. 75:15 . . . proclaim my gospel, even as I have commanded them.

100. 75:24 . . . proclaim the gospel unto the world.

101. 76:101 . . . received not the gospel, neither the testimony of Jesus.

102. 76:114 But great and marvelous are the works of the Lord, and the mysteries of his kingdom which he showed unto us, which surpass all understanding . . . and are not lawful for man to utter.
103. 79:1 . . . proclaiming glad tidings of great joy, even the everlasting gospel.

104. 80:3-4 Wherefore, go ye and preach my gospel . . . preach the gospel to every creature . . . . declare the things which ye have heard, and verily believe, and know to be true.

105. 81:3 . . . proclaiming the gospel in the land.

106. 84:54-57 . . . your minds in times past have been darkened because of unbelief, and because you have treated lightly the things you have received--Which vanity and unbelief have brought the whole church under condemnation. And this condemnation resteth upon the children of Zion, even all. And they shall remain under this condemnation until they repent and remember the new covenant, even the Book of Mormon, and the former commandments which I have given them, not only to say, but to do.

107. 84:61-62 . . . bearing testimony to all the world of those things which are communicated unto you. . . . that the testimony may go from you into all the world.

108. 84:63-64 . . . for you are mine apostles, even God's high priests . . . . every soul who believeth on your words and is baptized . . .

109. 84:66-69, 73 In my name they shall do many wonderful works; In my name they shall cast out devils; In my name they shall heal the sick; In my name they shall open the eyes of the blind, and unstop the ears of the deaf . . . . they shall not boast themselves of these things, neither speak them before the world; for these things are given unto you for your profit and for salvation.
110. 84:76-77, 80 . . . verily I say unto all those to whom the kingdom has been given—from you it must be preached unto them . . . for they are to be upbraided for their evil hearts of unbelief, and your brethren in Zion for their rebellion against you . . . . ye become even as my friends in days when I was with them, traveling to preach the gospel . . . . any man that shall go and preach this gospel of the kingdom, and fail not to continue faithful in all things, shall not be weary in mind, neither darkened, neither in body, limb, nor joint; and a hair of his head shall not fall to the ground unnoticed. And they shall not go hungry, neither athirst.

111. 84:85-87, 94-95 . . . treasure up in your minds continually the words of life, and it shall be given you in the very hour that portion that shall be meted unto every man. . . . proclaim this gospel of the kingdom. . . . reprove the world of all their "unrighteous deeds and to teach them of a judgment which is to come. . . . wo unto that house, or that village or city that rejecteth you, or your words, or your testimony concerning me. Wo, I say again, unto that house, or that village or city that rejecteth you, or your words, or your testimony of me.

112. 84:103, 106 . . . goes forth to proclaim mine everlasting gospel . . . . if any man among you be strong in the Spirit, let him take with him him that is weak, that he may edified.

113. 84:114 . . . warn the people of those cities with the sound of the gospel, . . . of the desolation and utter abolishment which await them if they do reject these things.

114. 84:117 And verily I say unto you, the rest of my servants, go ye forth as your circum-
stances shall permit, in your several callings, unto the great and notable cities and villages, reproving the world in righteousness of all their unrighteous and ungodly deeds, setting forth clearly and understandingly the desolation of abomination in the last days.

115. 85:7  . . . whose mouth shall utter words, eternal words.

116. 86:10  . . . until the restoration of all things spoken by the mouths of all the holy prophets.

117. 88:71  . . . let those whom they have warned in their traveling call on the Lord, and ponder the warning in their hearts.

118. 88:77-79, 81  . . . teach one another the doctrine of the kingdom. Teach ye diligently and my grace shall attend you, that you may be instructed more perfectly in theory, in principle, in doctrine, in the law of the gospel, in all things that pertain unto the kingdom of God, that are expedient for you to understand; Of things both in heaven and in the earth, and under the earth; things which have been, things which are, things which must shortly come to pass; things which are at home, things which are abroad; the wars and the perplexities of the nations, and the judgments which are on the land; and a knowledge also of countries and of kingdoms. . . . I sent you out to testify and warn the people, and it becometh every man who hath been warned to warn his neighbor.

119. 88:84, 88-89  . . . labor diligently, that you may be perfected in your ministry . . . to bind up the law and seal up the testimony . . . . . after your testimony cometh wrath . . . . . after your testimony cometh the testimony of earthquakes . . . .
120. 88:118, 120-122

... teach one another words of wisdom
... that all your salutations may be in
the name of the Lord ... cease from
all your light speeches ... Appoint
among yourselves a teacher, and let not
all be spokesmen at once; but let one
speak at a time and let all listen unto
his sayings, that when all have spoken
that all may be edified of all.

121. 88:127, 132-133, 132-133, 135-137

... the school of the prophets, estab-
lished for their instruction in all
things that are expedient for them ... 
let the teacher arise, and, with uplifted
hands to heaven, yea, even directly,
salute his brother or brethren with
these words: Art thou a brother or
brethren? I salute you in the name of
the Lord Jesus Christ, in token or
remembrance of the everlasting covenant,
in which covenant I receive you to fellow-
ship, in a determination that is fixed,
immovable, and unchangeable, to be your
friend and brother through the grace of
God in the bonds of love, to walk in all
the commandments of God blameless, in
thanksgiving, forever and ever, Amen.
... if they be brethren, they shall
salute the president or teacher with
uplifted hands to heaven, with this same
prayer and covenant, or by saying Amen
in token of the same. Behold, verily, I
say unto you, this is an ensample unto
you for a salutation to one another in
the house of God, in the school of the
prophets. And ye are called to do this
by prayer and thanksgiving, as the Spirit
shall give utterance ... to your
edification.

122. 90:9, 11

That through your administration they may
receive the word, and through their
administration the word may go forth
... every man shall hear the fulness
of the gospel in his own tongue.
... verily I say unto you, my servant Frederick G. Williams, you have continued under this condemnation; You have not taught your children light and truth, according to the commandments; and that wicked one hath power, as yet, over you, and this is the cause of your affliction. ... Your family must needs repent and forsake some things, and give more earnest heed unto your sayings, or be removed out of their place.

... proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the gospel of salvation, as I shall give him utterance.

... I, the Lord, am well pleased that there should be a school in Zion, and also with my servant Parley P. Pratt, for he abideth in me. ... And I will bless him with a multiplicity of blessings, in expounding all scriptures and mysteries to the edification of the school, and of the church in Zion.

... a place of instruction ... That they may be perfected in the understanding of their ministry, in theory, in principle, and in doctrine, in all things pertaining to the kingdom of God on the earth.

... proclaim peace.

... warn him in my name that he come no more upon you, neither upon your family, even your children's children unto the third and fourth generation.

... proclaim mine everlasting gospel unto the inhabitants ... declare my word in the demonstration of my Holy Spirit ... thou shalt continue proclaiming my gospel until thou be taken.
130. 100:5, 7, 9-11 ... speak the thoughts that I shall put into your hearts, and you shall not be confounded before men . . . . But a commandment I give unto you, that ye shall declare whatsoever thing ye declare in my name . . . . it is expedient in me that you, my servant Sidney, should be a spokesman unto this people . . . . And I will give unto him power to be mighty in testimony. . . . I will give unto thee power to be mighty in expounding all scriptures, that thou mayest be a spokesman unto him.

131. 103:29 . . . shall lift up his voice . . . in preparing the churches to keep the commandments which I have given unto them concerning the restoration and redemption of Zion.

132. 104:26 . . . the proclaiming of my words.

133. 105:10 . . . that my people may be taught more perfectly, and have experience, and know more perfectly concerning their duty, and the things which I require at their hands.

134. 105:24-25 Talk not of judgments, neither boast of faith nor of mighty works, but carefully gather together, as much in one region as can be, consistently with the feelings of the people; And behold, I will give unto you favor and grace in their eyes, that you may rest in peace and safety, while you are saying unto the people: Execute judgment and justice for us according to law, and redress us of our wrongs.

135. 105:39-40 . . . make a proclamation of peace unto the ends of the earth; And make proposals for peace unto those who have smitten you.

136. 106:2 . . . preach my everlasting gospel, and lift up his voice and warn the people.
137. 107:25 The Seventy are also called to preach the gospel.

138. 107:35, 38 The Twelve being sent out, holding the keys, to open the door by the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ . . . . to fill the several calls for preaching and administering the gospel.

139. 107:56 And Adam stood up in the midst of the congregation; and . . . being full of the Holy Ghost, predicted whatsoever should befall his posterity unto the latest generation.

140. 107:85-87, 89 . . . to sit in council with them, and to teach them their duty, edifying one another . . . . teaching them the duties of their office, as given in the covenants. . . . to teach them the duties of their office, as is given in the covenants . . . . to teach them according to the covenants.

141. 108:6-7 . . . preach my gospel wheresoever I shall send you . . . . strengthen your brethren in all your conversations . . . in all your exhortations.

142. 109:7, 9, 14, 17-18 . . . teach one another words of wisdom; . . . That your incomings may be in the name of the Lord, that your outgoings may be in the name of the Lord, that all your salutations may be in the name of the Lord. . . . taught words of wisdom out of the best books . . . . That all the incomings of thy people, into this house, may be in the name of the Lord; That all their outgoings from this house may be in the name of the Lord.

143. 109:23 And from this place they may bear exceedingly great and glorious tidings, in truth, unto the ends of the earth, . . . to fulfil that which thou hast spoken by
the mouths of the prophets, concerning the last days.

144. 109:29, 31  . . . the everlasting gospel shall be proclaimed in their ears . . . . bearing record of thy name.

145. 109:36  . . . let the gift of tongues be poured out upon thy people . . . and the interpretation thereof.

146. 109:38-39  Put upon thy servants the testimony of the covenant that when they go out and proclaim thy word . . . and prepare the hearts of thy saints for all those judgments . . . . And whatsoever city thy servants shall enter, and the people of that city receive their testimony, let thy peace and thy salvation be upon that city.

147. 109:41  . . . and the people of that city receive not the testimony of thy servants, and thy servants warn them to save themselves from this untoward generation, let it be upon that city according to that which thou hast spoken by the mouths of thy prophets.

148. 109:45-46  . . . thou hast spoken by the mouth of thy prophets terrible things concerning the wicked, in the last days--that thou wilt pour out thy judgments, without measure; . . . enable thy servants to seal up the law, and bind up the testimony.

149. 109:56  That their hearts may be softened when thy servants shall go out from thy house, O Jehovah, to bear testimony of thy name.

150. 109:79-80  . . . that we may mingle our voices . . . with acclamations of praise . . . and thy saints shout aloud for joy.
151. 112:1, 4-5, 9, 12 ... bear testimony of my name ... and thou shalt bear record of my name ... send forth my word unto the ends of the earth. ... let thy warning voice go forth ... Thy voice shall be a rebuke unto the transgressor ... Admonish them sharply for my name's sake, and let them be admonished for all their sins.

152. 112:19, 28 ... and in whatsoever place ye shall proclaim my name an effectual door shall be opened unto you, that they may receive my word. ... go ye into all the world, and preach my gospel.

153. 114:1 ... testify of my name and bear glad tidings unto all the world.

154. 118:4 And next spring let them depart to go over the great waters, and there promulgate my gospel, the fulness thereof, and bear record of my name.

155. 124:7 Call ye, therefore, upon them with loud proclamation, and with your testimony.

156. 124:18 ... it is my will that my servant Lyman Wight should continue in preaching for Zion, in the spirit of meekness, confessing me before the world.

157. 124:75 ... let him lift up his voice long and loud, in the midst of the people, to plead the cause of the poor and the needy.

158. 124:88 ... proclaim my everlasting gospel with a loud voice.

159. 124:97, 101 ... he shall receive of my Spirit, even the Comforter, which shall manifest unto him ... what he shall say. ... Therefore, let my servant William cry aloud ... with hosannas to him that sitteth upon the throne forever and ever.
160. 124:106  . . . let him lift up his voice . . . and warn the inhabitants of the earth to flee the wrath to come.

161. 127:10  . . . I desired, with exceedingly great desire, to have addressed them from the stand on the subject of baptism for the dead.

162. 128:23  . . . let all the sons of God shout for joy! And let the eternal creations declare his name forever and ever!

163. 133:8-14  Send forth the elders of my church unto the nations . . . this shall be their cry, and the voice of the Lord unto all people: Go ye forth unto the land of Zion, that the borders of my people may be enlarged, and that her stakes may be strengthened, and that Zion may go forth unto the regions round about. . . . let the cry go forth among all people: Awake and arise and go forth to meet the Bridegroom; behold and lo, the Bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. Prepare yourselves for the great day of the Lord. Watch, therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour. Let them, therefore, who are among the Gentiles flee unto Zion. And let them who be of Judah flee unto Jerusalem, unto the mountains of the Lord's house. Go ye out from among the nations, even from Babylon, from the midst of wickedness, which is spiritual Babylon.

164. 133:37-40  And this gospel shall be preached unto every nation . . . . the servants of God shall go forth, saying with a loud voice: Fear God and give glory to him, for the hour of his judgment is come; And worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters--Calling upon the name of the Lord day and night, saying: O that thou wouldst rend the
heavens, that thou wouldst come down, that the mountains might flow down at thy presence.

165. 134:12 We believe it just to preach the gospel to the nations of the earth, and warn the righteous to save themselves from the corruption of the world. . . . we do not believe it right to interfere with bond-servants, neither preach the gospel to, nor baptize them contrary to the will and wish of their masters.

166. 136:16 . . . let my servants that have been appointed go and teach this, my will, to the saints, that they may be ready to go to a land of peace.

167. 136:23-24 . . . cease to speak evil one of another. . . . let your words tend to edifying one another.

168. 136:34-35 Thy brethren have rejected you and your testimony, even the nation that has driven you out; And now cometh the day of their calamity.

169. 136:39 . . . it was needful that he should seal his testimony with his blood.

170. Manifesto . . . allege that . . . public discourses the leaders of the Church have taught, encouraged and urged the continuance of the practice of polygamy--

171. Manifesto . . . these charges are false. We are not teaching polygamy or plural marriage, . . . Inasmuch as laws have been enacted by Congress forbidding plural marriages, . . . I hereby declare my intention to submit to those laws . . . There is nothing in my teachings . . . during the time specified . . . to inculcate or encourage polygamy; and when any Elder of the Church has used language which
appeared to convey any such teaching, he has been promptly reproved. And I now publicly declare that my advice to the Latter-day Saints is to refrain from contracting any marriage forbidden by the law of the land.

172. Manifesto . . . the Manifesto which has been read in our hearing . . . we accept his declaration concerning plural marriages as authoritative and binding.

THE GOSPEL

What is the message that the oral communicators of the gospel should be conveying? First and foremost, it is the gospel. From the foregoing references of the Doctrine and Covenants there are many messages given, but the one message that is mentioned most often is the message of the gospel. It is given at least sixty-eight times. It is mentioned in several ways such as "my gospel," "this gospel," "the gospel," and "everlasting gospel."

In Chapter 1 we defined the gospel and in Chapter 3 we talked about gospel knowledge. It appears from the foregoing references where the gospel is mentioned that the word gospel is being used in the sense of the first principles of religious truth as is found in reference 47. In section 39:6 of the Doctrine and Covenants
we read: "And this is my gospel--repentance and baptism by water, and then cometh the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost, even the comforter." The fourth Article of Faith of the Church states:

We believe that the first principles and ordinances of the Gospel are: first, Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; second, Repentance; third, Baptism by immersion for the remission of sins; fourth, Laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost.1

As if to keep us close to the first principles of the gospel, the Doctrine and Covenants mentions repentance some twenty-seven times in the references: "say nothing but repentance unto this generation" (8, 12), "declare repentance" (14, 15, 16, 25), cry/crying repentance (18, 18, 48, 51), preach naught but repentance (24), etc.

In addition, the other first principles of the gospel--faith, baptism by immersion, and the gift of the Holy Ghost are mentioned some seventeen times in the references: faith (25, 70, 78, 94), baptism (23, 25, 47, 47, 70, 78, 79, 94), the Holy Ghost (25, 47, 70, 78, 94).

While serving as President and Prophet, Seer and Revelator of the Church, Joseph Fielding Smith stated:

1Pearl of Great Price, p. 60.
As agents of the Lord we are not called or authorized to teach the philosophies of the world or the speculative theories of our scientific age. Our mission is to preach the doctrines of salvation in plainness and simplicity as they are revealed and recorded in the scriptures.  

And of those who do it, the Lord has said:

And any man that shall go and preach this gospel of the Kingdom, and fail not to continue faithful in all things, shall not be weary in mind, neither darkened, neither in body, limb, nor joint; and a hair of his head shall not fall to the ground unnoticed. And they shall not go hungry, neither athirst.  

(110)

TESTIMONY

A testimony of the gospel is the sure knowledge, received by revelation from the Holy Ghost, of the divinity of the great latter-day work. In former dispensations a testimony was the revealed knowledge of the divinity of the work in that day . . . . Receipt of a testimony is accompanied by a feeling of calm, unwavering certainty. . . .

Three great truths must be included in every valid testimony: (1) That Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the Savior of the world (D&C 46:13); (2) That Joseph Smith is the Prophet of God through whom the gospel was restored in this dispensation; and (3) That The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is "the only true and living church upon the face of the whole earth." (D&C 1:30)

Embraced within these great revealed assurances are a host of others, as that the Book of Mormon is

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2 Conference Reports, October 2, 1970, p. 5.

3 Doctrine and Covenants 84:80.
true, that holy messengers restored keys and priesthood to men in this day, and that the present leadership of the Church has the right and power to direct the Lord's work on earth. To bear one's testimony is to make a solemn declaration, affirmation or attestation that personal revelation has been received certifying to the truth of those realities which comprise a testimony.

With the receipt of a testimony comes the obligation to bear witness to the world of the divinity of the Lord's work.4

With the gospel and its first principles being most often mentioned in the references, the next grouping in frequency mentioned includes words and terms centering around testimony. They appear some fifty-three times. Below is the word testimony and its references along with related words or phrases and their references:

1. Testimony--6, 6, 6, 9, 81, 89, 101, 107, 111, 111, 119, 119, 119, 130, 146, 146, 147, 148, 149, 151, 155, 168, 169.

2. Testify/testified--17, 17, 22, 22, 118, 153.

3. Bear/bearing testimony--81, 82, 93, 107.


5. Bear witness--27.


4McConkie, Mormon Doctrine, pp. 785-787.
8. That which he knows--83.
9. Know to be true--104.
10. Verily believe--104.

Of the references dealing with testimony, here are some of the things of which they testify: of the truth (82), of things which are to come (81), of Christ and bear record of his name (27, 94, 101, 144, 149, 151), of things of which you shall both hear and see (14), of the things which are revealed to them (84), etc.

While serving as President and Prophet, Seer and Revelator of the Church, Brigham Young stated:

I would rather hear men tell their own experience and testify that Joseph Smith was a Prophet of the Lord, and that the Book of Mormon, the Bible, and other revelations of God are true; that they know it by the gift and power of God . . . than hear any other kind of preaching that ever saluted my ears.5

He also stated, while serving as President of the Church:

I want you to go upon your missions in the spirit of God. You will do more good by bearing testimony of the work of God through the Holy Ghost than by all the argument you can use.6

5The Contributor, X, No. 4 (February 1889), 121.
6Cowley, p. 412.
OTHER MESSAGES

The Doctrine and Covenants contains several references to communicating "my word" or "voice of the Lord." In most cases the term used is "my word" (3, 5, 6, 6, 9, 13, 13, 13, 16, 22, 22, 27, 44, 56, 72, 78, 85, 86, 94, 94, 94, 129, 132, 146, 151, 152). That the Lord uses his servants to receive and deliver his word is obvious. Such phrases as "my words that are given through you" (6), "believe on his words given him through me" (30), "I spake by the mouths of my prophets" (58), "I called upon you by the mouth of my servants" (63), and "these words of mine from the mouth of my servants" (72), illustrate the point.

Whatever message the Holy Ghost prompts a man to give, that message becomes the word of the Lord to the people (94):

And whatsoever they shall speak when moved upon by the Holy Ghost shall be scripture, shall be the will of the Lord, shall be the mind of the Lord, shall be the word of the Lord, shall be the voice of the Lord, and the power of God unto salvation.7

Sometimes the Lord will inspire a man in the "very moment" what he shall speak (32). The Holy Ghost gives utterance

7Doctrine and Covenants 68:4.
and God can prompt the message (35, 74), have men speak as he inspires them (27), and tell men the subject they should communicate, as governed by him (124), the spirit (57), and the comforter (37).

Behold, I sent you out to testify and warn the people, and it cometh every man who hath been warned to warn his neighbor.⁸ (118)

Warn, forewarn, warning are the words used in the Doctrine and Covenants to convey another vital message (1, 28, 53, 87, 90, 92, 92, 113, 117, 117, 118, 118, 118, 128, 136, 147, 151, 160, 165). There is the warning of desolation (90, 113), to save themselves (147, 165), to flee the wrath to come (160). "... warn sinners to repentance... For this is a day of warning, and not a day of many words" (92).

Oral communicators of the gospel are expected to use the scriptures. Expound "all scriptures" is the message from the Doctrine and Covenants in references 32, 32, 33, 94, 125, 130. Other references to the scriptures in general are 27, 35, 47, 94, 96; to the Book of Mormon in particular, 27, 47, 57, 106; and to the Bible 57 and 59 (which refers to Joseph Smith's translation)

⁸Doctrinal and Covenants 88:81.
"Teach the principles of my gospel, which are in the Bible and the Book of Mormon" (57).

The Doctrine and Covenants speaks of the need to give heed to the voice of the Lord's servants (3), "the words of the prophets and apostles" (3), and the President of the Church (30), declare the things revealed to the Prophet (44), tell the things he says to you (39), call on other prophets to prove his words (50), believe the words of the prophet (30), and declare "none other things than "the prophets and apostles" (74, 76).

The Doctrine and Covenants has other messages for the oral communicators of the gospel to deliver. We will close this section by listing some of the remaining ones, without elaboration or explanation:

1. The word--74, 75, 75, 77, 85, 88, 122, 122.
2. Commandments--37, 38, 98, 98, 98, 106, 123.
3. Revelations--37, 38, 61, 98.
5. In my name--4, 56, 128, 130.
UNDERSTANDABLE AND EDIFYING

In this section we shall first consider the understandable and then the edifying type of message.

The excellence of the glory of the character of brother Joseph Smith was that he could reduce heavenly things to the understanding of the finite. When he preached to the people—revealed the things of God, the will of God, the plan of salvation, the purpose of Jehovah, the relation in which we stand to him and all the heavenly beings, he reduced his teachings to the capacity of every man, woman, and child, making them as plain as a well-defined pathway.9

Thus spoke Brigham Young while President of the Church.

In Chapter 5 we defined expound as "to explain: to lay open the meaning; to clear of obscurity; to interpret; as to expound a text of scripture." We used expound in that chapter, along with the word exhort, as one of the words of oral communication. In this section we shall use the word expound in the sense of creating understanding. In the references we find "expound all things concerning the church" (29), "expound/expounding scriptures" (32, 32, 33, 94, 125, 130), "expound scriptures" (35), "expounding these things" (90), and just "expounding" (95).

9 *Journal of Discourses*, VIII, 206.
Reference 4 tells how God gives commandments after the manner of our language that we "might come to understanding." Other references to the words understand, understanding, understandably, are 29, 71, 71, 71, 114, 118, 126.

Other phrases on this theme are to "reason with them" (69), "reasoning with . . . them" (94), "setting forth clearly" (114), and finally that milk should be given before meat (24). To repeat part of an earlier quote in this chapter by President Joseph Fielding Smith, "Our mission is to preach the doctrines of salvation in plainness and simplicity."  

Edification is education in uplifting and enlightening things. To edify a person is to teach, instruct and benefit him in the moral and religious fields. Gospel principles and practices are designed to mellow and edify true believers so that they may become saints in very deed. It is the duty of the saints to "instruct and edify true believers so that they may become saints in very deed. It is the duty of the saints to "instruct and edify each other" (D&C 43:8, 84:106, 110; 136:24 . . . )

Those who teach in church organizations are specifically commanded to speak so that "all may be edified" (D&C 88:122, 137). Quorum officers are to edify those over whom they preside (D&C 107:85).

Things that are edifying are of God and lead to salvation; unedifying things are from beneath and lead to damnation. When the spirit of the Lord is present, then "he that preacheth and he that receiveth under-

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10 Conference Reports, October 2, 1970, p. 5.
stand one another, and both are edified and rejoice together. And that which doth not edify is not of God, and is darkness (D&C 50:22-23).\textsuperscript{11}

While most of the scriptures in our references on edification were referred to in the quote above, nevertheless, here is the listing of all of our references for the oral communicators of the gospel on the principle of edification (61, 71, 112, 120, 121, 125, 140, 167).

EXPEDIENT

In the Doctrine and Covenants the Lord prohibits certain kinds of communication and sets limits on how much of the gospel message is to be given and to whom.

The Prophet Joseph Smith stated, "... it is not always wise to relate all the truth."\textsuperscript{12} We find the word expedient being used in the Doctrine and Covenants. In the references we learn that the Holy Ghost will manifest what is expedient (19), that certain teachings were not to go abroad until the Lord said it was expedient (66), that things pertaining to the Kingdom of God were to be taught that were expedient to be understood (118), and that the

\textsuperscript{11}McConkie, \textit{Mormon Doctrine}, p. 213.

\textsuperscript{12}Smith, \textit{Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith}, p. 392.
school of the prophets was established for instruction in things that were expedient for them (121).

There are some things that "are not lawful for man to utter" (102), and "things which belong to the children of the Kingdom" which should not be "given to them that are not worthy" (55). There were signs that would "follow them that believe" that were not to be spoken "before the world" (109), nor were "judgments" to be talked about (134). "And of tenants thou shalt not talk" (25).

"Cease from all your light speeches" (120), "cease to speak evil one of another" (167), and "revile not against those that revile" (44, 25).

"For they cannot bear meat now, but milk they must receive" (24), "but treasure up in your minds continually the words of life, and it shall be given you in the very hour that portion that shall be meted unto every man" (111).

We shall close this chapter with a fitting quotation from President Brigham Young: "The preacher needs the power of the Holy Ghost to deal out to each heart a word in due season." 13

Chapter 7

THE MANNER OF COMMUNICATING

In this chapter we shall consider from the Doctrine and Covenants the manner of orally communicating that which is acceptable to the Lord and that which is not.

1. 10:62-63 . . . bring to light the true points of my doctrine . . . . that I may establish my gospel, that there may not be so much contention; yea, Satan doth stir up the hearts of the people to contention concerning the points of my doctrine; and in these things they do err.

2. 18:20-21 Contend against no church, save it be the church of the devil. . . . and speak the truth in soberness.

3. 19:37 . . . declare the truth, even with a loud voice, with a sound of rejoicing.

4. 24:12 . . . declare my gospel as with the voice of a trump.

5. 28:3 . . . declare faithfully the commandments and the revelations, with power and authority.

6. 28:16 . . . declaring my gospel with the sound of rejoicing.

7. 29:4 . . . declaring my gospel with the sound of rejoicing, as with the voice of a trump.
8. 30:9 . . . proclaim my gospel, as with the voice of a trump.

9. 33:2 . . . that ye are called to lift up your voices as with the sound of a trump, to declare my gospel.

10. 34:5-6, 10 . . . you are called of me to preach my gospel--To lift up your voice as with the sound of a trump, both long and loud, . . . Wherefore, lift up your voice . . .

11. 36:1, 3 . . . you are called to preach my gospel as with the voice of a trump . . . . And you shall declare it with a loud voice.

12. 38:41 . . . let your preaching be the warning voice, every man to his neighbor, in mildness and in meekness.

13. 39:19 Wherefore, go forth, crying with a loud voice . . .

14. 42:6 . . . go forth in the power of my Spirit, preaching my gospel, two by two, in my name, lifting up your voices as with the sound of a trump, declaring my word like unto angels of God.

15. 42:15-16 And all this ye shall observe to do as I have commanded concerning your teaching, . . . And as ye shall lift up your voices by the Comforter, ye shall speak and prophesy as seemeth me good.

16. 43:20 Lift up your voices and spare not. Call upon the nations to repent.

17. 47:2 Again, verily I say unto you that he can also lift up his voice in meetings, whenever it shall be expedient.

18. 52:16 He that speaketh, whose spirit is contrite, whose language is meek and edifying, the same is of God if he obey mine ordinances.
19. 60:7 And in this place let them lift up their voice and declare my word with loud voices, without wrath or doubting.

20. 60:14 ... proclaiming my word among the congregations of the wicked, not in haste, neither in wrath nor with strife.

21. 63:64 Remember that that which cometh from above is sacred, and must be spoken with care, and by constraint of the Spirit; and in this there is no condemnation.

22. 71:7 Wherefore, confound your enemies; call upon them to meet you both in public and in private.

23. 75:2, 4 Harken, 0 ye who have given your names to go forth to proclaim my gospel ... Lifting up your voices as with the sound of a trump.

24. 84:61 ... remain steadfast in your minds in solemnity and the spirit of prayer, in bearing testimony to all the world of those things which are communicated unto you.

25. 84:65-66, 73 And these signs shall follow them that believe--In my name they shall do many wonderful works ... But a commandment I give unto them, that they shall not boast themselves of these things.

26. 84:103, 106 ... proclaim mine everlasting gospel ... And if any man among you be strong in the Spirit, let him take with him him that is weak, that he may be edified in all meekness.

27. 84:114 ... warn the people of those cities with the sound of the gospel, with a loud voice.
28. 88:118-120  ... teach one another words of wisdom
     ... Organize yourselves; prepare
every needful thing; and establish a
house . . . That your incomings may be
in the name of the Lord; that your out-
goings may be in the name of the Lord;
that all your salutations may be in the
name of the Lord, with uplifted hands
unto the Most High.

29. 88:128-129, 132, 135  ... He that is appointed to be presi-
dent, or teacher . . . . he shall be
first in the house of God, in a place
that the congregation in the house may
hear his words carefully and distinctly,
not with loud speech . . . . And when any
shall come in after him, let the teacher
arise, and, with uplifted hands to heaven,
yea, even directly, salute his brother or
brethren with these words:

30. 95:10  Nevertheless, my servants sinned a very
grievous sin; and contentions arose in
the school of the prophets; which was
very grievous unto me, saith your Lord;
therefore I sent them forth to be
chastened.

31. 100:5, 7  Therefore, verily I say unto you, lift
up your voices unto this people; speak
the thoughts that I shall put into your
hearts . . . ye shall declare whatsoever
thing ye declare in my name, in solemnity
of heart, in the spirit of meekness, in
all things.

32. 103:29  It is my will that my servant Sidney
Rigdon shall lift up his voice in the
congregations . . .

33. 105:24  ... neither boast of faith nor of
mighty works.

34. 106:2  ... preach my everlasting gospel, and
lift up his voice . . .
35. 109:7-9, 19  . . . teach one another words of wisdom
. . . . Organize yourselves; prepare
every needful thing, and establish a
house . . . That your incomings may be
in the name of the Lord, that your out-
goings may be in the name of the Lord,
that all your salutations may be in the
name of the Lord, with uplifted hands
unto the Most High-- . . . . that all
their salutations may be in the name of
the Lord, with uplifted hands unto the
Most High-- . . . . that all their
salutations may be in the name of the
Lord, with holy hands, uplifted to the
Most High.

36. 109:80  . . . and thy saints shout aloud for joy.

37. 122:4  . . . thy voice shall be more terrible
in the midst of thine enemies than the
fierce lion.

38. 124:5, 7  . . . concerning those kings and authori-
ties . . . . Call ye, therefore, upon
them with loud proclamation.

39. 124:18  . . . Lyman Wight should continue in
preaching for Zion, in the spirit of
meekness.

40. 124:75  And let him lift up his voice long and
loud, in the midst of the people.

41. 124:88  Let my servant William go and proclaim
my everlasting gospel with a loud voice,
and with great joy.

42. 124:101  Therefore, let my servant William cry
aloud and spare not with joy and rejoic-
ing.

43. 124:104, 106  . . . and he shall lift up his voice
again on the mountains, and be a spokes-
man before my face. . . . . let him
lift up his voice as with the sound of
a trump.
44. 124:116 And let him repent of all his folly . . . and lay aside all his hard speeches.

45. 133:37-38 And this gospel shall be preached . . . . And the servants of God shall go forth, saying with a loud voice: . . .

46. Manifesto . . . in the most solemn manner, declare . . . .

The following is a list of acceptable manners or ways of orally communicating the gospel as tabulated from the foregoing references. They are listed according to the frequency with which they are mentioned.

1. Lift up voice--9, 10, 10, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 23, 31, 32, 34, 40, 43, 43.

2. Loud (voice, cry, shout, etc.)--3, 10, 11, 13, 19, 27, 36, 38, 40, 41, 42, 45.

3. Trump (sound of, voice of)--4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 23, 43.

4. Rejoicing (joy)--3, 6, 7, 36, 41, 42.

5. Meekness--12, 18, 26, 31, 39.


7. Long--10, 40.


The following list pertains to the unacceptable manner of communicating the gospel:
1. Contention--1, 2, 30.
4. Doubting (19), Haste (20), Strife (20), Hard speeches (44).

References 28 and 29 have to do primarily with the establishment of a school of the prophets and the rules thereof. Reference 35, which includes all of 28, is from the dedicatory prayer of the Kirtland Temple. Reference 37 refers to the Prophet Joseph Smith and was one of the revelations given to him while his enemies held him in the Liberty jail.

Here is the background for reference 22. This scripture was given during a period of church history when scandalous attacks were being published about the church, creating a bitter spirit on the part of many people. The circumstances surrounding these incidents created a rather unusual condition. Usually the Lord counsels his servants not to engage in debates and arguments. In this particular case the Lord felt another approach was needed. The enemies were confounded, much of the prejudice was allayed, and friends were made. The Prophet Joseph Smith stated:
That which is wrong under one circumstance may be, and often is, right under another.¹

From the tabulation of acceptable manners of orally presenting the gospel and the emphasis by repetition which they receive in the Doctrine and Covenants, it is apparent that the Lord wishes his communicators to step forward, lift up their voice loud enough to be heard like a trumpet, and deliver their message with joy and in meekness and sobriety.

¹Smith, *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, p. 256.
Chapter 8

COMMUNICATING AND THE SPIRIT

In an earlier part of this thesis we have defined the term "spirit of the Lord," with its several meanings. We are now at a point where we can examine separately the relationship of the spirit with oral communication of the gospel.

In the Doctrine and Covenants there are some significant scriptures pertaining to the need of the spirit for oral communicators of the gospel. Here are some of these scriptures: ". . . if ye receive not the spirit ye shall not teach" (D&C 42:14). ". . . unto what were ye ordained? To preach my gospel by the Spirit" (D&C 50:14). "And this is the ensample unto them, that they shall speak as they are moved upon by the Holy Ghost" (68:3).

In these brief selections we have listed the need for the spirit in teaching, preaching and speaking—the three major means of orally communicating the gospel. The Prophet Joseph Smith stated:

All are to preach the Gospel, by the power and influence of the Holy Ghost; and no man
can preach the Gospel without the Holy Ghost.¹

This same thought was echoed by Wilford Woodruff while he served as the Prophet-President:

I think you are all acquainted with my moto with regard to public speaking. No man, in this generation or in any other, can preach the Gospel or edify the Lamb of God unless he is led by the inspiration of the Holy Ghost.²

Let us list, then, some of the passages from the Doctrine and Covenants pertaining to the spirit that would have particular significance to those who orally communicate the gospel.

1. 6:14 Verily, verily, I say unto thee, blessed art thou for what thou hast done; for thou hast inquired of me, and behold, as often as thou hast inquired thou hast received instruction of my Spirit. . . . Behold, thou knowest that thou hast inquired of me and I did enlighten thy mind . . . thou hast been enlightened by the Spirit of truth.

2. 11:9, 12 Say nothing but repentance unto this generation . . . And now, verily, verily, I say unto thee, put your trust in that Spirit which leadeth to do good--yeh, to do justly, to walk humbly, to judge righteously; and this is my Spirit.

3. 11:13-14 Verily, verily, I say unto you, I will impart unto you of my Spirit, which shall enlighten your mind, which shall fill your soul with joy; And then shall ye know, or by this shall you know, all things whatsoever you desire of me, which


²Millennial Star, LIV (September 12, 1892), 588-589.
are pertaining unto things of righteousness, in faith believing in me that you shall receive.

4. 11:21 Seek not to declare my word, but first seek to obtain my word, and then shall your tongue be loosed; then, if you desire, you shall have my Spirit.

5. 14:8 And it shall come to pass that if you shall ask the Father in my name, in faith believing, you shall receive the Holy Ghost, which giveth utterance, that you may stand as a witness of the things of which you shall both hear and see, and also that you may declare repentance unto this generation.

6. 18:2-5 Behold, I have manifested unto you, by my Spirit in many instances, that the things which you have written are true; wherefore you know that they are true. And if you know that they are true, behold, I give unto you a commandment, that you rely upon the things which are written; For in them are all things written concerning the foundation of my church, my gospel, and my rock. Wherefore, if you shall build up my church, upon the foundation of my gospel and my rock, the gates of hell shall not prevail against you.

7. 18:14, 18 Wherefore, you are called to cry repentance unto this people. . . . Ask the Father in my name, in faith believing that you shall receive, and you shall have the Holy Ghost, which manifesteth all things which are expedient unto the children of men.

8. 18:32 And, behold, you are they who are ordained of me to ordain priests and teachers; to declare my gospel, according to the power of the Holy Ghost which
is in you, and according to the callings and gifts of God unto men.

9. 19:21 And I command you that you preach naught but repentance, . . . . walk in the meekness of my Spirit.

10. 19:37-38 And speak freely to all; yea, preach, exhort, declare the truth, . . . . Pray always, and I will pour out my Spirit upon you.

11. 20:26 . . . in the words of the holy prophets, who spake as they were inspired by the gift of the Holy Ghost, who truly testified of him in all things.

12. 20:45 The elders are to conduct the meetings as they are led by the Holy Ghost, according to the commandments and revelations of God.

13. 20:77, 79 . . . they are willing to take upon them the name of thy Son, and always remember him, and keep his commandments which he has given them; that they may always have his Spirit to be with them. . . . that they do always remember him, that they may have his Spirit to be with them.

14. 21:9 . . . and they shall believe on his words, which are given him through me by the Comforter, which manifesteth that Jesus was crucified by sinful men for the sins of the world, yea, for the remission of sins unto the contrite heart.

15. 24:5-6 And thou shalt continue in calling upon God in my name, and writing the things which shall be given thee by the Comforter, and expounding all scriptures unto the church. And it shall be given thee in the very moment what thou shalt speak.
16. 25:7 And thou shalt be ordained under his hand to expound scriptures, and to exhort the church, according as it shall be given thee by my Spirit.

17. 28:1 Behold, I say unto thee, Oliver, that it shall be given unto thee that thou shalt be heard by the church in all things whatsoever thou shalt teach them by the comforter, concerning the revelations and commandments which I have given.

18. 28:4 And if thou art led at any time by the Comforter to speak or teach . . . thou mayest do it.

19. 31:3, 11 . . . your tongue shall be loosed, and you shall declare glad tidings of great joy. . . . and it shall be given you by the Comforter what you shall do.

20. 33:8 Open your mouths and they shall be filled, . . . . And the Book of Mormon and the holy scriptures are given of me for your instruction; and the power of my Spirit quickeneth all things.

21. 34:5, 10 . . . you are called of me to preach my gospel . . . . Wherefore, lift up your voice . . . prophesy, and it shall be given by the power of the Holy Ghost.

22. 36:1-2 . . . I say unto you, my servant Edward, that you are blessed, and your sins are forgiven you, and you are called to preach my gospel as with the voice of a trump; And I will lay my hand upon you by the hand of my servant Sidney Rigdon, and you shall receive my Spirit, the Holy Ghost, even the Comforter, which shall teach you the peaceable things of the kingdom.
23. 39:6 And this is my gospel--repentance and baptism by water, and then cometh the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost, even the Comforter, which showeth all things, and teacheth the peaceable things of the kingdom.

24. 42:6-7 And ye shall go forth in the power of my Spirit, preaching my gospel . . . declaring my word . . . saying: Repent ye, repent ye, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

25. 42:12-13 And again, the elders, priests and teachers of this church shall teach the principles of my gospel, which are in the Bible and the Book of Mormon, in the which is the fulness of the gospel. And they shall observe the covenants and church articles to do them, and these shall be their teachings, as they shall be directed by the Spirit.

26. 42:14, 16-17 And the Spirit shall be given unto you by the prayer of faith; and if ye receive not the Spirit ye shall not teach. . . . lift up your voices by the Comforter, ye shall speak and prophesy as seemeth me good . . . the Comforter knoweth all things.

27. 42:23 And he that looketh upon a woman to lust after her shall deny the faith, and shall not have the Spirit.

28. 43:15-16 . . . Ye are not sent forth to be taught, but to teach the children of men the things which I have put into your hands by the power of my Spirit; And ye are to be taught from on high.

29. 45:57 For they that are wise and have received the truth, and have taken the Holy Spirit for their guide, and have not been deceived--verily I say unto you, they shall not be hewn down.
30: 46:2 ... it always has been given to the elders of my church from the beginning and ever shall be, to conduct all meetings as they are directed and guided by the Holy Spirit.

31. 46:7 ... and that which the Spirit testifies unto you even so I would that ye should do.

32. 46:11, 13 ... to every man is given a gift by the Spirit of God. ... To some it is given by the Holy Ghost to know that ...

33. 46:28, 30-31 And it shall come to pass that he that asketh in Spirit shall receive in Spirit ... He that asketh in the Spirit asketh according to the will of God ... all things must be done in the name of Christ, whatsoever you do in the Spirit.

34. 50:10, 13-14, 17 And now come, saith the Lord, by the Spirit, unto the elders of his church, and let us reason together, that ye may understand ... unto what were ye ordained? To preach my gospel by the Spirit, even the Comforter which was sent forth to teach the truth. ... he that is ordained of me and sent forth to preach the word of truth by the Comforter, in the Spirit of truth doth he preach it by the Spirit of truth.

35. 52:9 ... let them journey from thence preaching the word by the way, saying none other things than that which the prophets and apostles have written, and that which is taught them by the Comforter through the prayer of faith.

36. 63:16, 32 And verily I say unto you as I have said before, he that looketh on a woman to lust after her, or if any shall commit adultery in their hearts, they shall not
have the Spirit . . . . I, the Lord, am angry with the wicked; I am holding my
Spirit from the inhabitants of the earth.

37. 63:64 . . . that which cometh from above is sacred, and must be spoken with care,
and by constraint of the Spirit . . . ye receive the Spirit through prayer.

38. 64:15-16 . . . I, the Lord, was angry with him who was my servant Ezra Booth, and also
my servant Isaac Morley, for they kept not the law, neither the commandment;
They sought evil in their hearts, and I, the Lord, withheld my Spirit.

39. 68:1-3 My servant, Orson Hyde, was called by his ordination to proclaim the everlasting
gospel, by the Spirit of the living God . . . . And, behold, and lo, this is an
ensample unto all those who were ordained unto this priesthood, whose mission is
appointed unto them to go forth--And this is the ensample unto them, that they
shall speak as they are moved upon by the Holy Ghost.

40. 71:1 . . . open your mouths in proclaiming my gospel, the things of the kingdom, ex-
pounding the mysteries thereof out of the scriptures, according to that portion of
Spirit and power which shall be given unto you.

41. 75:10 Calling on the name of the Lord for the Comforter.

42. 76:5, 10 . . . I, the Lord, am merciful and gracious unto those who fear me, and
delight to honor those who serve me in righteousness and in truth unto the end.
. . . For by my Spirit will I enlighten them.

43. 76:12 By the power of the Spirit our eyes were opened and our understandings were
enlightened.
44. 76:52 That by keeping the commandments they might be washed and cleansed from all their sins, and receive the Holy Spirit.

45. 76:116 . . . the power of the Holy Spirit, which God bestows on those who love him, and purify themselves before him.

46. 79:1-2 . . . Jared Carter should go again . . . proclaiming glad tidings of great joy, even the everlasting gospel. And I will send upon him the Comforter, which shall teach him the truth.

47. 84:45-46 For the word of the Lord is truth, and whatsoever is truth is light, and whatsoever is light is Spirit, even the Spirit of Jesus Christ. And the Spirit giveth light to every man that cometh into the world; and the Spirit enlighteneth every man through the world, that hearkeneth to the voice of the Spirit.

48. 84:68, 88 . . . this commandment is unto all the faithful who are called of God . . . that goeth forth to proclaim this gospel of the kingdom . . . my Spirit shall be in your hearts.

49. 84:103, 106 And again, verily, verily, I say unto you, it is expedient that every man who goes forth to proclaim mine everlasting gospel, . . . . if any man among you be strong in the Spirit, let him take with him him that is weak, that he may be edified in all meekness, that he may become strong also.

50. 88:136-137 . . . this is an ensample unto you for a salutation to one another in the house of God, in the school of the prophets. . . . do this by prayer and thanksgiving, as the Spirit shall give utterance in all your doings in the house of the Lord, in the school of the prophets, that it may
become a sanctuary, a tabernacle of the Holy Spirit to your edification.

51. 90:11 . . . every man shall hear the fulness of the gospel in his own tongue, and in his own language, through those who are ordained unto this power, by the administration of the Comforter.

52. 91:4 . . . for the Spirit manifesteth truth.

53. 99:2 . . . you shall have power to declare my word in the demonstration of my Holy Spirit.

54. 100:7-8 . . . ye shall declare whatsoever thing ye declare in my name, in solemnity of heart, in the spirit of meekness, in all things. And I give unto you this promise, that inasmuch as ye do this the Holy Ghost shall be shed forth in bearing record unto all things whatsoever ye shall say.

55. 105:40 And make proposals for peace unto those who have smitten you, according to the voice of the Spirit which is in you.

56. 107:56 And Adam stood up in the midst of the congregation; and notwithstanding he was bowed down with age, being full of the Holy Ghost, predicted whatsoever should befall his posterity.

57. 109:79 . . . And help us by the power of thy Spirit, that we may mingle our voices with those bright, shining seraphs around thy throne, with acclamations of praise.

58. 112:19, 21-22 . . . proclaim my name . . . whosoever ye shall send in my name, by the voice of your brethren, the Twelve, duly recommended and authorized by you, shall have power to open the door of my kingdom . . . Inasmuch as they shall . . . hearken to the voice of my Spirit.
59. 121:26 God shall give unto you knowledge by his Holy Spirit, yea, by the unspeakable gift of the Holy Ghost.

60. 121:37, 43, 45-46 ... when we undertake to cover our sins, or to gratify our pride, our vain ambition, or to exercise control or dominion or compulsion upon the souls of the children of men, in any degree of unrighteousness, behold, the heavens withdraw themselves; the Spirit of the Lord is grieved, and when it is withdrawn ... Reproving betimes with sharpness, when moved upon by the Holy Ghost ... Let thy bowels also be full of charity towards all men, and to the household of faith, and let virtue garnish thy thoughts increasingly ... The Holy Ghost shall be thy constant companion.

61. 124:88 Let my servant William go and proclaim my everlasting gospel ... as he shall be moved upon by my Spirit.

62. 124:97 Let my servant William Law ... let him be humble before me, and be without guile, and he shall receive of my Spirit, even the Comforter, which shall manifest unto him the truth of all things, and shall give him, in the very hour, what he shall say ... Therefore, let my servant William cry aloud.

63. 136:33-34 For my Spirit is sent forth into the world to enlighten the humble and contrite, and to the condemnation of the ungodly. Thy brethren have rejected you and your testimony.

From the foregoing scriptures of the Doctrine and Covenants, the following references relate directly to the need of the spirit in the conducting of meetings, teaching,
speaking, preaching, proclaiming, expounding, proposing, etc.—12, 17, 18, 24, 26, 30, 34, 39, 39, 40, 55, 61.

With the necessity of having the spirit when orally communicating the gospel, the Doctrine and Covenants also reveals how one might obtain that spirit; though it should be kept in mind at all times that when it comes, it comes as a gift from God.

1. Pray. "And the Spirit shall be given unto you by the prayer of faith" (26). Here are references on obtaining the spirit through prayer: 1, 5, 7, 10, 26, 33, 35, 37, 41.

2. Study. "Seek not to declare my word, but first seek to obtain my word, and then shall your tongue be loosed; then if you desire, you shall have my spirit" (4).

3. Being righteous. "... the Holy Spirit, which God bestows on those who love him, and purify themselves before him" (45). The Prophet Joseph Smith stated:

The gift of the Holy Ghost by the laying on of hands, cannot be received through the medium of any other principle than the principle of righteousness.

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3Smith, History of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, III, 379.
Here are references to the fact that righteousness invites the spirit and iniquity drives it away: 13, 27, 36, 38, 42, 44, 45, 47, 60, 62.

While serving as President of the Church, Harold B. Lee aptly summarized the three steps of receiving the spirit--prayer, study, being righteous--when he said:

If we apply ourselves there are many opportunities to teach the gospel, day by day and hour by hour, wherever we may be. If we have lived for it, if we have prepared for it and if we seek it, the guiding spirit will give us the ability to teach. Remember, words are just words, in teaching the gospel, unless they are accompanied by the spirit of the Lord.4

There are, of course, many principles of righteousness, but the following have been emphasized in the Doctrine and Covenants in relation to the spirit and the oral communication of the gospel:

1. Authorization. "My servant, Orson Hyde, was called by his ordination to proclaim the everlasting gospel by the Spirit of the living God (39). Here are references relating to the need for authorization to proclaim the gospel in order to have the spirit in so doing: 8, 16, 22, 34, 39, 48, 51.

2. Humility and meekness. ". . . let him be humble before me . . . and he shall receive of my Spirit

4Deseret News Church Section (Salt Lake City), July 15, 1972, p. 4.
... which ... shall give him ... what he shall say" (62). References on this subject are 9, 62, 63. Communicating in the spirit of meekness (49, 54) and solemnity of heart (54) also invites the spirit.

3. Virtuousness in thoughts. ". . . let virtue garnish thy thoughts unceasingly; then . . . the Holy Ghost shall be thy constant companion" (60). References on this general theme are 13, 27, 36, 60.

The spirit being present is mentioned in relation to these various messages being communicated; the gospel (8, 24, 25, 34, 40, 46, 48), testify of Christ (11), commandments (12, 17), revelations (12, 17), expound scripture (16), exhort church (16), Book of Mormon (20, 25), holy scriptures (20, 40), my word (24, 53), Bible (25), covenants and church articles (25), truth (34), prophets and apostles (35), Kingdom (40).

The Doctrine and Covenants points out what the spirit will do for the oral communicator of the gospel who possesses it. It will instruct (1), enlighten (3, 42, 47), fill soul with joy (3), give knowledge of righteousness (3), teach the peaceable things of the Kingdom (22, 23), show all things (23), teach from on high (28), teach the truth (34, 46, 52), open eyes (43), enlighten
understanding (43), give knowledge (59).

To one in the process of orally communicating a gospel message, the Doctrine and Covenants gives this instruction and comfort regarding the spirit:

1. "That which cometh from above is sacred, and must be spoken with care, and by constraint of the Spirit" (37).

2. You may know what and how much to tell for the Holy Ghost "manifesteth all things which are expedient unto the children of men" (7).

3. The spirit may give "thee in the very moment what thou shalt speak (15, 62).

4. If it is right by the Holy Ghost, you may prophesy (21, 26).

5. You should speak as you're "inspired by the gift of the Holy Ghost" (11, and related references are 5, 8, 18, 19, 25, 35, 50, 53, 57).

In analyzing the Doctrine and Covenants for basic principles of orally communicating the gospel, there is no other concept so consistently and broadly stressed as the necessity of having the spirit. Through every chapter of the examination of the Doctrine and Covenants the spirit has been mentioned. This follows because each
chapter's central theme contains a principle or principles contributory to having the spirit as an oral communicator of the gospel. In this chapter, then, the six themes all met—righteousness, knowledge, authority, the means, the message, and the manner as essential preludes to the seventh theme of communicating and the spirit.
Chapter 9

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

SUMMARY

It has been the purpose of this study to search the Doctrine and Covenants to determine as clearly and completely as possible the principles of oral communication of the gospel. The research design was patterned closely after a study that examined the Book of Mormon as an instrument in teaching the concept of prayer.

The research of the Doctrine and Covenants revealed seven basic principles needed for the oral communication of the gospel. The scriptures examined indicate that the communicator needs (1) righteousness, (2) knowledge, (3) authority, (4) to use the proper means of communicating, (5) to deliver the correct message, (6) to use the proper manner, (7) to obtain the spirit of the Lord.

CONCLUSION

From the analysis of the data collected the writer concludes the following to be most important to the oral communicator of the gospel:

1. Only the righteous can receive the blessings of the Lord to effectively carry his message of righteous-
ness--the gospel--into the world. Diligence, humility and meekness, prayer and fasting are facets of righteousness that are particularly stressed in the Doctrine and Covenants for the oral communicators of the gospel. "But purify your hearts before me; and then go ye into all the world, and preach my gospel" (D&C 112:28).

2. The communicator must first acquire the knowledge and then he can declare it. All useful knowledge can be of help in gospel communication, but the Doctrine and Covenants stresses that first and foremost is to gain the knowledge of the saving truths of the gospel. "Seek not to declare my word, but first seek to obtain my word, and then shall your tongue be loosed . . ." (D&C 11:21).

3. The Doctrine and Covenants emphasizes such words as ordained, called, and chosen to show that he who would represent the Lord in orally proclaiming his gospel must needs have his authorization. "Again I say unto you, that it shall not be given to anyone to go forth to preach my gospel, . . . except he be ordained by someone who has authority" (D&C 42:11).

4. As an oral means of communicating the gospel, preaching has been stressed the most often in the Doctrine and Covenants. Teaching is next. Declaring and proclaiming are often mentioned which indicates that emphasis and thrust are part of the means of communicating the gospel message. "Wherefore, I the Lord ask you this question--unto what were ye ordained? To preach my gospel" (D&C 50:13, 14).
5. Of all the messages that are to be orally communicated, the gospel receives the greatest emphasis in the Doctrine and Covenants, and along beside it comes the testimony of the communicator. Other messages that are to be given centered around "my word," "warning," "scriptures," and the words of the "prophets and apostles." The message should be understandable and edifying. Expedient is the word that is used to indicate there are boundaries as to what messages are to be given and to whom. "Yea open your mouths and they shall be filled, saying: repent and be baptized every one of you, for a remission of your sins; yea, be baptized even by water, and then cometh the baptism of fire and of the Holy Ghost. Behold verily, verily I say unto you, this is my gospel" (D&C 33:10-12).

6. The manner of communicating the gospel is important and the Doctrine and Covenants stresses that the communicator should lift up a loud voice with the sound of a trump in a joyful manner in meekness and soberness. The communicator is to avoid contention, boasting and wrath.

7. The spirit is obtained through study, prayer and righteousness. The spirit is mentioned in each
chapter of this analysis of the Doctrine and Covenants and becomes the central core in orally communicating the gospel. The theme of each chapter contributes to orally communicating the gospel by the spirit, namely, righteousness, knowledge, and authorization combined with the right means, message and manner of communication. "If ye receive not the spirit ye shall not teach" (D&C 42:14).
". . . preach my gospel by the spirit" (D&C 50:14).
". . . they shall speak as they are moved upon by the Holy Ghost" (68:3).

The writer wishes to acknowledge any imperfections in this thesis but desires to express his gratitude for the Doctrine and Covenants and say Amen to this closing quote from President Wilford Woodruff:

. . . . we have the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, our Testament, which contains the most glorious, god-like, solemn and eternal truths ever recorded within the lids of a book on the earth.¹

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THESIS

BASIC PRINCIPLES OF ORALLY COMMUNICATING THE GOSPEL

AS FOUND IN THE DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS

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ABSTRACT

In view of the large lay ministry of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints who are called upon to preach and teach the gospel, this study was undertaken to see if the latter-day volume of scripture, the Doctrine and Covenants, revealed basic principles associated with the oral communication of the gospel.

These principles became evident through the frequency that they were mentioned and the emphasis they received. They were (1) righteousness, in particular diligence, humility and meekness, prayer and fasting; (2) knowledge; (3) authority; (4) the right means of communicating; (5) the correct message— with the gospel, testimony, and what's expedient being highlighted; (6) the proper manner of delivery; and (7) the spirit of the Lord. Having the spirit of the Lord was stressed in connection with each of the other principles, and they in turn served as essential preludes to the seventh principle.

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