

2024 Family Reunion

Think Celestial!
Share God's view of Eternity



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The Law of the Harvest



Choices I make today will help define my future
I can only reap what I have sown
I will sow seeds of faith in Jesus Christ!

“Think Celestial”

President Russell M. Nelson - October 2023

“To assist you to qualify for the rich blessings Heavenly Father has for you, I invite you to adopt the practice of **“thinking celestial”**!



“So, my dear brothers and sisters, **how and where and with whom do you want to live forever? You get to choose!**”

“When you make choices, I invite you to **take the long view—an eternal view**. Put Jesus Christ first because your eternal life is dependent upon your faith in Him and in His Atonement.

As you focus on thinking celestial, **expect to encounter opposition**. ...

As you think celestial, **your heart will gradually change**. You will want to pray more often and more **sincerely**.

As you think celestial, **you will find yourself avoiding anything that robs you of your agency**. ...

Thinking celestial will also **help you obey the law of chastity**. ...

As you think celestial, **you will view trials and opposition in a new light**. ...

As you think celestial, **your faith will increase**. ...

Spending more time in the temple builds faith.”



Earth Life

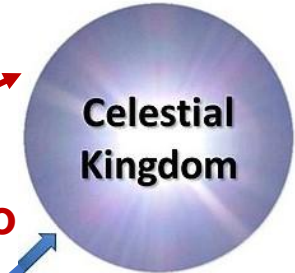
President Nelson: “*how and where and with whom do you want to live forever? You get to choose!*”

In our pre-mortal life we chose to follow Jesus Christ



Think Celestial
Choose Exaltation!

Eternal Families are exalted
in highest degree of celestial kingdom



President Nelson: “. . . *the very reason the earth was created was so families could be formed and sealed to each other. Salvation is an individual matter, but exaltation is a family matter. No one can be exalted alone.*”

Mortality (life on earth) has three main purposes:

1. to receive a Body
2. to be tested – the test is:
will we choose to follow Jesus Christ in mortality
3. to establish a family sealed in the House of the Lord - worthy of exaltation

The covenant path home leads through the temple

Exaltation



Endure to the end / Sacrament



Sealed in the temple - Exaltation is a FAMILY matter

Endowed in the temple

Sacrament

Priesthood

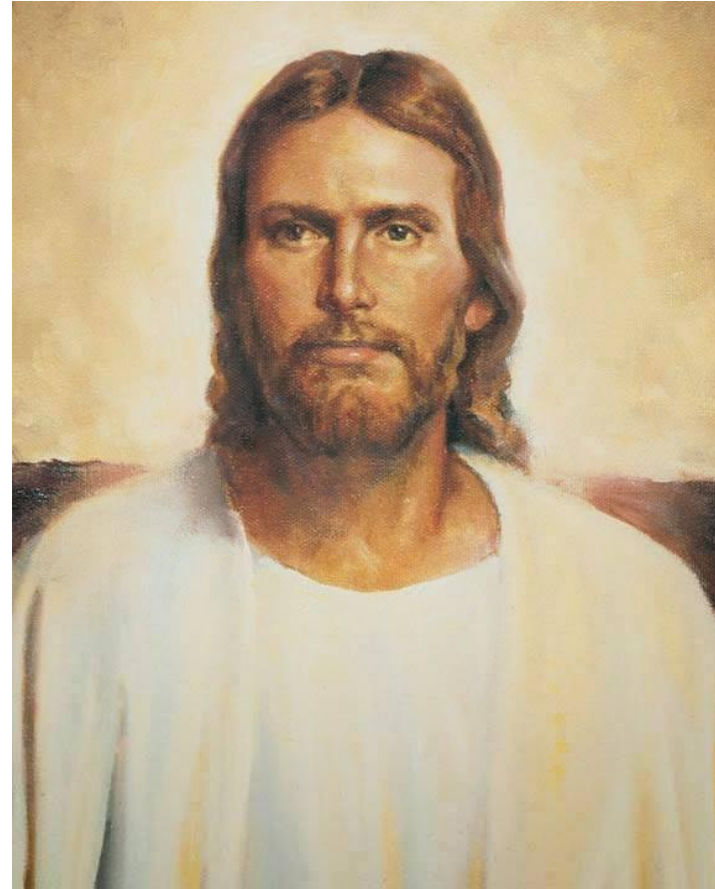
Confirmation

Baptism

So how do I *choose* EXALTATION?

President Nelson: ***“Put Jesus Christ first because your eternal life is dependent upon your faith in Him and in His Atonement.”***

Build upon the rock of our Redeemer, Jesus Christ



“ . . . it is upon the rock of our Redeemer, who is Christ, the Son of God, that ye must build your foundation”

Helaman 5:12



YOUR foundation

ROCK - Jesus Christ

*“Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and **it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.**” Matthew 7:24-25*

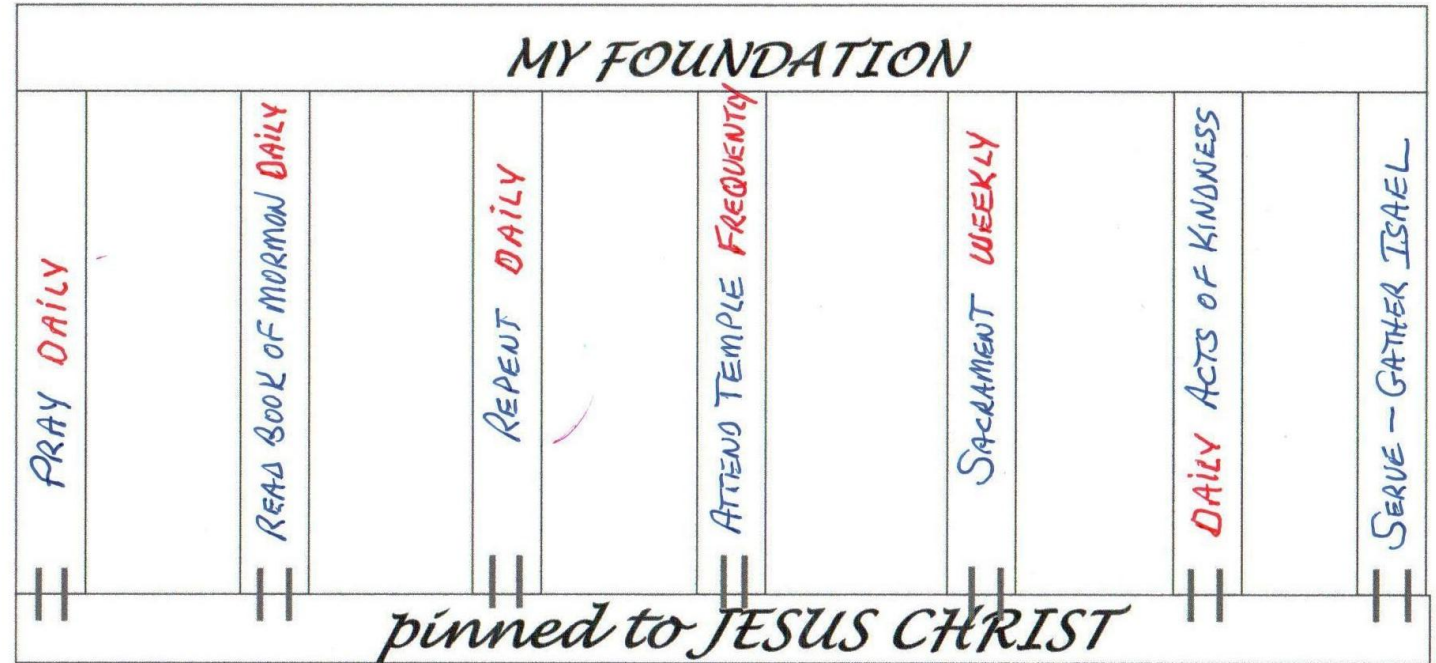
Building MY FOUNDATION

MY FOUNDATION												
PRAY DAILY		READ BOOK OF MORMON DAILY		REPENT DAILY		ATTEND TEMPLE FREQUENTLY		SACRAMENT WEEKLY		DAILY ACTS OF KINDNESS		SERVE - GATHER ISRAEL
==		==		==		==		==		==		==
pinned to JESUS CHRIST												

Building MY FOUNDATION

These pillars help us BUILD upon the ROCK of JESUS CHRIST →

We PIN ourselves to JESUS CHRIST → by making and keeping covenants with HIM. . . we become YOKED with HIM.



“Every time we faithfully receive, review, remember, and renew sacred covenants, our spiritual anchors are secured ever more firmly and steadfastly to the “rock” of Jesus Christ.” Elder David A. Bednar Apr. 2024

"Take my yoke upon you"

Elder Bednar: *Making and keeping sacred covenants yokes us to and with the Lord Jesus Christ*

What are the **covenants** that yoke us with Jesus Christ – pin us to the Rock of Jesus Christ?



Jesus Christ Me

Baptism and Sacrament

Priesthood

Temple endowment and sealing

COVENANTS that yoke me to Jesus Christ – pin me to the Rock of Jesus Christ

Baptism and Sacrament

We covenant to take upon us the name of Christ; always remember Him;
keep His commandments; serve Him throughout our lives

His promise: “that [we] may always have His Spirit to be with us”

Priesthood

We covenant to receive His servants; live by His word; go ye into all the world; live
righteously; honor the power of the priesthood with gentleness and meekness

His promise: “I will go before your face. I will be on your right hand and on
your left, and my Spirit shall be in your hearts, and mine angels round about
you, to bear you up.”

COVENANTS that PIN (Yoke) me to Jesus Christ

Temple Endowment

We covenant to keep these five laws:

1. Law of **Obedience** (keeping God's commandments)
2. Law of **Sacrifice** (giving our all to the Lord and repenting with a broken heart and contrite spirit)
3. Law of the **Gospel of Jesus Christ** (the higher law – to live in word, thoughts, and deeds as he taught and lived)
4. Law of **Chastity** (to be morally clean)
5. Law of **Consecration** (dedicating our time, talents and everything with which the Lord has blessed us to Him)

His Promises

1. Greater knowledge of the Lord's purposes and teachings.
2. Power to do all that God wants us to do.
3. Divine guidance and protection as we serve the Lord, our families, and others.
4. Increased hope, comfort, and peace.
5. Promised blessings now and forever.

COVENANTS that PIN (Yoke) me to Jesus Christ?

Temple Sealing

A husband and wife who are sealed in the temple make **sacred covenants** with the Lord and with each other. These covenants assure them that their relationship will continue after this life if they are true to their commitments.

“A spouse is the only person other than the Lord whom we are commanded to love with all our heart” Doctrine and Covenants 42:22

“**The sealing ordinance is God’s greatest gift to His children.** It enables us to return to live with Him and all of our loved ones forever. It offers marvelous blessings for this life and the next. It is a constant reminder that families are central to God’s plan and to our happiness here and in eternity. It provides peace, hope, and joy for all who faithfully receive it. The covenant of eternal marriage is also needed for exaltation.”

Churchofjesuschrist.org/temples

Many in our family have now prepared for exaltation – sealed in the Holy Temple

His Promise is Exaltation: “Exaltation is the greatest gift that God can give His children”
We will live with Him as **families** forever!

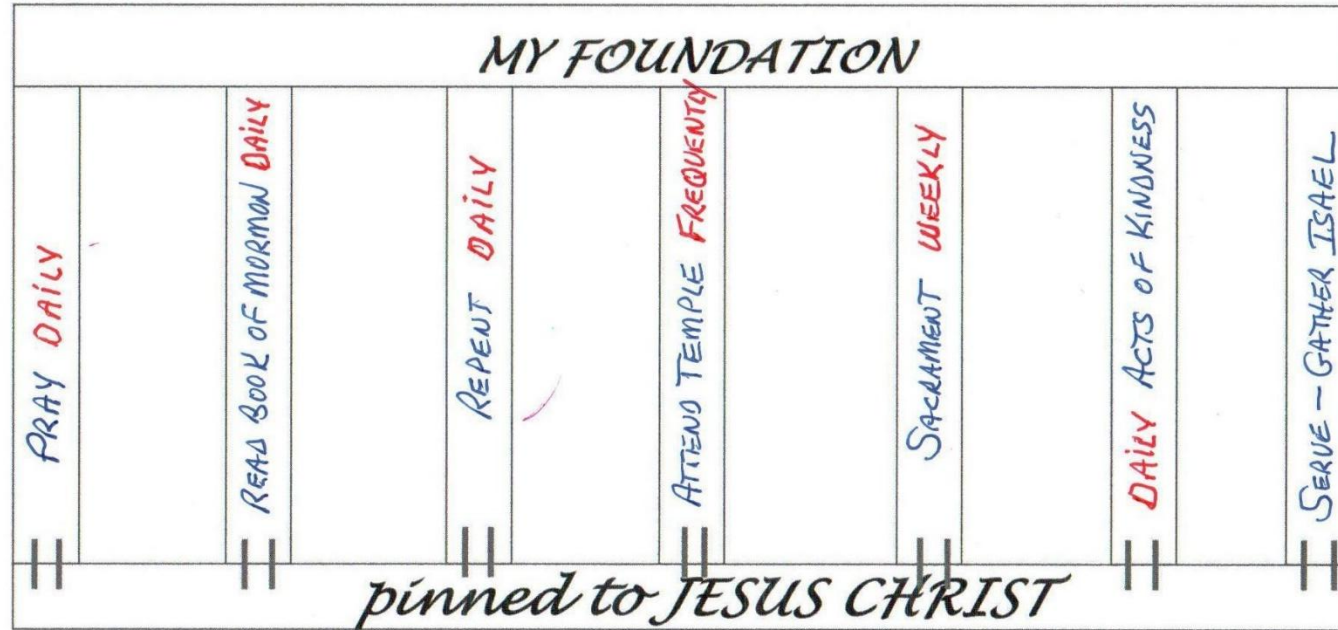
Sealing in the Holy Temple of the Lord

“How far is heaven? I testify that in the holy temples it is not far at all - for it is in these sacred places that heaven and earth meet and our Heavenly Father gives His children His greatest blessings.” President Thomas S. Monson

Imagine yourself kneeling at an altar in the sealing room of a temple with a worthy person whom you wish to spend eternity with and surrounded by family



Building MY FOUNDATION

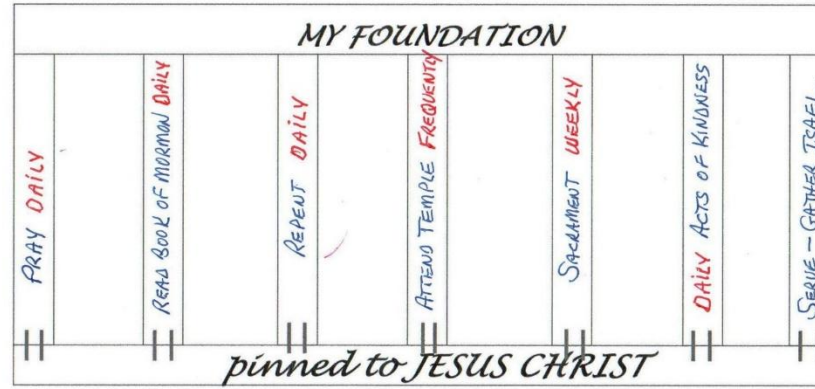


When I build on the ROCK of JESUS CHRIST and pin myself to Him by making and keeping covenants

I AM A DISCIPLE OF JESUS CHRIST

HOW AM I DOING?

Building MY FOUNDATION

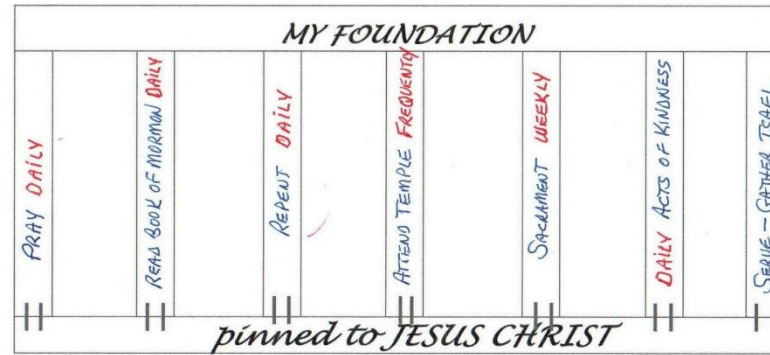


Like sports and music, **DAILY EFFORT** is required to **BE** who we want to be!

Am I as committed to building my foundation on Jesus Christ as I am to becoming the athlete, musician, etc. that I want to be?



Building MY FOUNDATION



*DAILY EFFORT is required to BE who He wants me to BE!
I am committed to building my foundation on Jesus Christ*



*Pray
Daily*



*Read Book
of Mormon
Daily*



*Repent
Daily*



*Attend Temple
Frequently*



*Sacrament
Weekly*



*Be kind
Daily*



*Gather Israel
Always*

“THE FAMILY is ordained of God.”

The Family – A Proclamation to the World

The Lord has declared

(In The Family – A Proclamation to the World)

“The divine plan of happiness enables family relationships to be perpetuated beyond the grave. Sacred ordinances and covenants available in holy temples make it possible for individuals to return to the presence of God and for families to be united eternally. Marriage between man and woman is essential to His eternal plan. Happiness in family life is most likely to be achieved when founded upon the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ. Successful marriages and families are established and maintained on principles of faith, prayer, repentance, forgiveness, respect, love, compassion, work, and wholesome recreational activities.”

***I will be there for each member of my family
always and to the end!***

JESUS: "... lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." Matthew 28:20



— ” —

Quite simply it is love. It is the unconditional love that says, regardless of what you do or where you go, I will always be there for you.

— ” —

The Temple of the Lord

The best way to pin lives to the Rock of Jesus Christ - to be yoked with Him - is to be in his Holy House with Him.

A true disciple of Jesus Christ will be in the temple frequently and help others to do the same, for there we receive power to do all that the Savior wants us to do to come home to the Father



The Temple of the Lord

The Lord's Prophet – President Russell M. Nelson – referred to the dedicatory prayer for the Kirtland Temple found in **Doctrine and Covenants Section 109** in April 2024 General Conference:

“It is a promise about what will happen to those who serve and worship in the house of the Lord. They can expect to receive answers to prayer, personal revelation, greater faith, strength, comfort, increased knowledge, and increased power.

Time in the temple will help you to think celestial and to catch a vision of who you really are, who you can become, and the kind of life you can have forever. Regular temple worship will enhance the way you see yourself and how you fit into God's magnificent plan. I promise you that.

We are also promised that in the temple we may “receive a fulness of the Holy Ghost.” Imagine what that promise means in terms of having the heavens open for each earnest seeker of eternal truth.

We are instructed that all who worship in the temple will have the power of God and angels having “charge over them.” How much does it increase your confidence to know that, as an endowed woman or man armed with the power of God, you do not have to face life alone? What courage does it give you to know that angels really will help you?

Finally, we are promised that “no combination of wickedness” will prevail over those who worship in the house of the Lord.”

The Temple of the Lord

The Lord's PROMISES thru His Prophet - President Russell M. Nelson in April 2024 General Conference:

*“My dear brothers and sisters, nothing will help you more to hold fast to the iron rod than **worshipping in the temple as regularly as your circumstances permit**. Nothing will protect you more as you encounter the world’s mists of darkness. Nothing will bolster your testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ and His Atonement or help you understand God’s magnificent plan more. Nothing will soothe your spirit more during times of pain. Nothing will open the heavens more. Nothing!*

The temple is the gateway to the greatest blessings God has in store for each of us”

President Russell M. Nelson

April 2018

*“Our Savior and Redeemer, Jesus Christ, will perform some of His mightiest works between now and when He comes again. **In coming days, it will not be possible to survive spiritually without the guiding, directing, comforting, and constant influence of the Holy Ghost.**”* Choose to do the spiritual work required to enjoy the gift of the Holy Ghost and hear the voice of the Spirit more frequently and more clearly.”

*I will do the **“the spiritual work required”** to have the Holy Ghost with me **ALWAYS***

What is the spiritual work required to enjoy the gift of the Holy Ghost and hear the voice of the Spirit more frequently and more clearly?

- *Daily personal prayer*
- *Daily study of the Book of Mormon*
- *Daily repentance/weekly sacrament*
- *Daily acts of kindness and service to others - love as He loved.*
- *Personally attend the temple frequently and engage in family history work*
- ***Personally help Gather Israel - “Anytime you do anything that helps anyone—on either side of the veil—take a step toward making covenants with God and receiving their essential baptismal and temple ordinances, you are helping to gather Israel. It is as simple as that.” President Nelson***

The list of “spiritual work required” mirrors the pillars and pins that tie us to the Rock of Jesus Christ

- *Daily personal prayer*
- *Daily study of the Book of Mormon*
- *Daily repentance/weekly sacrament*
- *Daily acts of kindness and service to others - love as He loved.*
- *Personally attend the temple frequently and engage in family history work*
- *Personally help Gather Israel*

This “spiritual work” is the focus of a full-time mission and can be the focus of our lives throughout mortality

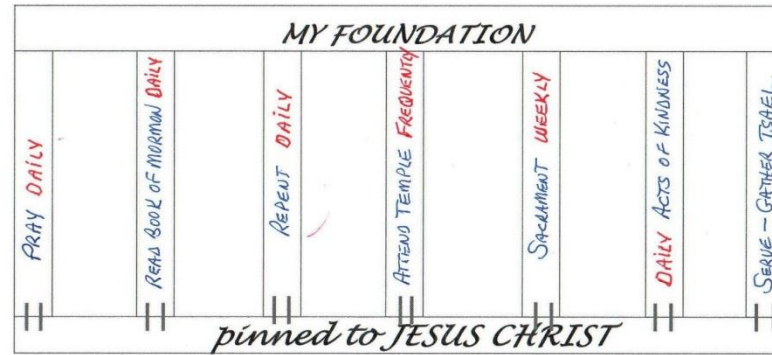
“We need Jesus Christ, the Holy Ghost, and each other to become the person He wants us to BE”

Our Father in Heaven gave us His Son and the Holy Ghost to help us return home - to be exalted!

Our Father in Heaven gave us family to help us become whom He wants us to BE.

I am grateful for the love of my Heavenly Father, His Son Jesus Christ, and my family - I am never alone!

Building MY FOUNDATION



DAILY EFFORT is required to **BE** who He wants me to **BE**!
I will sow seeds of faith that will help me have a forever family!



Pray
Daily



Read Book
of Mormon
Daily



Repent
Daily



Attend Temple
Frequently



Sacrament
Weekly



Be kind
Daily



Gather Israel
Always



*“I will go and do the things
which the Lord
hath commanded. . .”*

I Nephi 3:7

*“I will be in the temple of
the Lord more frequently!”*

*“I will **BE** the daughter/son
of God He wants me to **BE!**”*

Pam
Keegan Brinlee
Tanna Ryker

Mark & Celeste
Hailey
Jaxxon, Quinn

Timothy & Tia
Carter Eiley Bree Ty

Richard & Shannon
Kaitlyn Bryant Mason Raely
Addyson Sophie Lainey Brody

Kalynn & Mike
Aria Hyrum Sarah Trevor

Daniel & Julie
Kymber Kaycee Garrett
Braden Brylee

Michael & Heather
Darris Torin Amry
Kenzie Elyce

Steven & Colette
Samuel Colton
Tessalynn Jacob

Kenneth & Deborah
Colton Thane Trent
Danica Lance

Thomas Lee & Gretna Ann Palmer
Family Tree
Children & Grandchildren

Thinking Celestial

*Each child, grandchild, great grandchild will
grow their own Family Tree enlarging the
Family Tree of Tom & Gretna Palmer and the
Family Tree of our Heavenly Father and Mother*

*Sow seeds of faith that will yield an eternal
harvest*

What will your tree look like?

Think Celestial

