

Elder

Priesthood Education Series

Outreach Restoration Branch

Elder Benjamin Pedersen

WHY PRIESTHOOD?

Ephesians 4:11-16 11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the **perfecting of the saints**, for the **work of the ministry**, for the **edifying of the body of Christ**; 13 **Till we, in the unity of the faith, all come to the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ**; 14 That we henceforth **be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine**, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; 15 But **speaking the truth in love**, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ; 16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

WHY PRIESTHOOD?



WHY PRIESTHOOD?

Moroni 7:53 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, **pray unto the Father with all the energy of heart, that ye may be filled with this love** which he hath bestowed upon all who are true followers of his Son Jesus Christ, that ye may become the sons of God, **that when he shall appear, we shall be like him**; for we shall see him as he is, **that we may have this hope, that we may be purified** even as he is pure. Amen.

WHY PRIESTHOOD?

Priesthood is **NOT** a social organization

Priesthood is central to God's purpose
for His people to become

SPIRITUAL

NOT carnal, sensual and devilish

(Genesis 4:13)

WHY PRIESTHOOD?

The purpose and power of priesthood is

firstly **spiritual**, then

secondly **physical** in nature.

(Physical only to the extent necessary to perform the actions required by commandment by God to increase the spiritual condition of His people)

Servant to God's people is both

Part 1

What does priesthood mean in our church?

WHAT DOES PRIESTHOOD MEAN IN OUR CHURCH?

COVENANT

We must understand the magnitude of the significance of the relationship between God and those whom He has chosen.

WHAT DOES PRIESTHOOD MEAN IN OUR CHURCH?

COVENANT (cont.)

Covenant of priesthood is between God and man to do something together, for Him, on His behalf, for the benefit of His people and the whole world.

WHAT DOES PRIESTHOOD MEAN IN OUR CHURCH?

COVENANT (cont.)

Merriam-Webster's Dictionary

(definition of covenant)

cov-e-nant

“a usually formal, solemn, and binding agreement”

WHAT DOES PRIESTHOOD MEAN IN OUR CHURCH?

COVENANT (cont.)

God's terms of the oath and covenant of priesthood:

D&C 6f-h 6f Therefore, all that my Father hath shall be given unto him; and this is according to the **oath and covenant which belongeth to the priesthood**. 6g Therefore, all those who receive the priesthood receive this oath and covenant of my Father, which **he cannot break, neither can it be moved**; 6h but **whoso breaketh this covenant, after he hath received it, and altogether turneth therefrom, shall not have forgiveness of sins** in this world nor in the world to come.

WHAT DOES PRIESTHOOD MEAN IN OUR CHURCH?

SERVICE

Christ is the ultimate example and demonstration of love in service and sacrifice.

Ephesians 5:25-27 25 even **as Christ also loved the church,**
and gave himself for it; 26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but **that it should be holy and without blemish.**

Covenant to Service

WHAT DOES PRIESTHOOD MEAN IN OUR CHURCH?

SERVICE (cont.)

D&C 42:8a If thou lovest me, thou shalt **serve me** and keep all my commandments.

Mosiah 1:49 And behold, I tell you these things that ye may learn wisdom; that ye may learn that **when ye are in the service of your fellow beings, ye are only in the service of your God.**

WHAT DOES PRIESTHOOD MEAN IN OUR CHURCH?

SERVICE (cont.)

D&C 4:1b b therefore, 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 at the last day;

D&C 38:9c And again I say unto you, I give unto you a commandment, that every man, both elder, priest, teacher, and also member, **go to with his might, with the labor of his hands**, to prepare and accomplish the things which I have commanded.

WHAT DOES PRIESTHOOD MEAN IN OUR CHURCH?

SERVICE (cont.)

From those is service to God, He wants ALL

NOT

a portion of your heart,

a little of your might,

half of your mind,

or some of your strength.

WHAT DOES PRIESTHOOD MEAN IN OUR CHURCH?

CALLING FROM GOD

Hebrews 5:4 And **no man taketh this honor unto himself**, but he that **is called of God**, as was Aaron.

John 15:16 **Ye have not chosen me**, but **I have chosen you**, and **ordained you**, that ye should go and bring forth fruit; and that your fruit should remain; that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

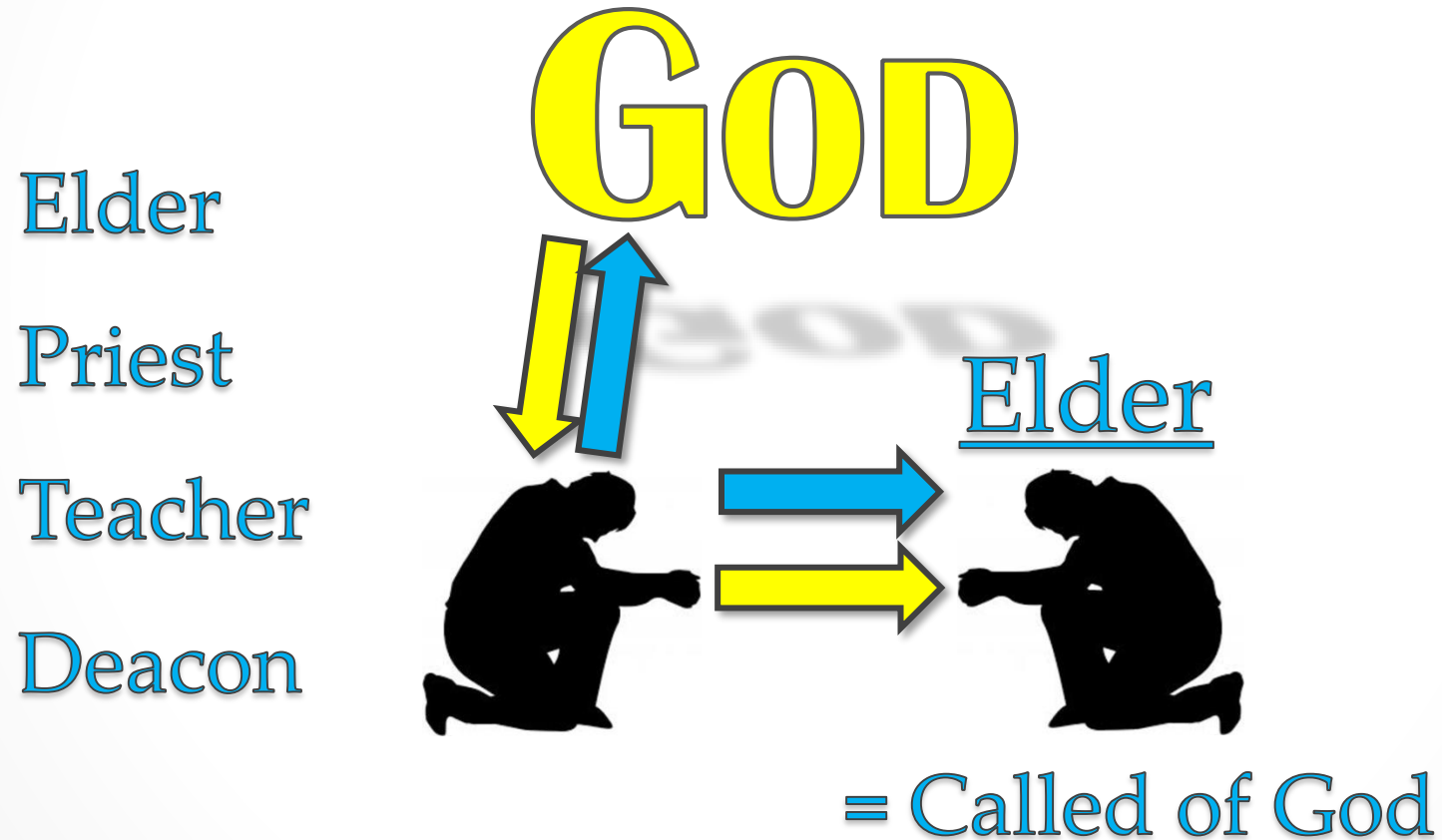
WHAT DOES PRIESTHOOD MEAN IN OUR CHURCH?

CALLING FROM GOD (cont.)

D&C 42:4 Again I say unto you that **it shall not be given to anyone to go forth to preach my gospel**, or to build up my church, **except he be ordained by someone 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.

WHAT DOES PRIESTHOOD MEAN IN OUR CHURCH?

CALLING FROM GOD (cont.)



WHAT DOES PRIESTHOOD MEAN IN OUR CHURCH?

CALLING FROM GOD (cont.)



WHAT DOES PRIESTHOOD MEAN IN OUR CHURCH?

CALLING FROM GOD (cont.)

D&C 119:8b **All are called according to the gifts of God unto them**; and to the intent that all may labor together, let him that laboreth in the ministry and him that toileth in the affairs of the men of business and of work labor together with God for the accomplishment of the work intrusted to all.

WHAT DOES PRIESTHOOD MEAN IN OUR CHURCH?

GIFTS & TALENTS

1 Corinthians 12:27-31 27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. 28 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? 30 Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret? 31 I say unto you, Nay; for I have shown unto you a more excellent way, therefore covet earnestly the best gifts.

WHAT DOES PRIESTHOOD MEAN IN OUR CHURCH?

GIFTS & TALENTS (cont.)

1 Corinthians 12:3-11 3 Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed; and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost. 4 **Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.** 5 And **there are differences of administrations,** but the same Lord. 6 And there are **diversities of operations,** but it is **the same God which worketh all in all.** 7 But **the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.** 8 For to one is given by the Spirit the **word of wisdom;** to another the **word of knowledge** by the same Spirit; 9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; 10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another **discerning of spirits;** to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues; 11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, **dividing to every man severally as he will.** (see also Moroni 10:8-14)

WHAT DOES PRIESTHOOD MEAN IN OUR CHURCH?

GIFTS & TALENTS (cont.)

D&C 46:6-8 6a And again, to some it is given by the Holy Ghost to know the differences of administration, as it will be pleasing unto the same Lord, according as the Lord will, suiting his mercies according to the conditions of the children of men. 6b And again, **it is given by the Holy Ghost to some to know the diversities of operations, whether it be of God**, that the manifestations of the Spirit may be given to every man to profit withal. 7a And again, verily I say unto you, To some it is given, by the Spirit of God, the word of wisdom; 7b to another it is given the word of knowledge, that all may be taught to be wise and to have knowledge. 7c And again, to some it is given to have faith to be healed, and to others it is given to have faith to heal. 7d And again, to some it is given the workings of miracles; and to others it is given to prophesy, and to others the discerning of spirits. 7e And again, it is given to some to speak with tongues, and to another it is given the interpretation of tongues: 7f and all these gifts come from God, for the benefit of the children of God. 7g And unto the bishop of the church, and unto such as God shall appoint and ordain to watch over the church, and to be **elders unto the church, are to have it given unto them to discern all those gifts, lest there be any among you professing and yet be not of God**. 8a And it shall come to pass that he that asketh in spirit shall receive in spirit; that unto some it may be given to have all those gifts, that there may be a head, in order that every member may be profited thereby: 8b he that asketh in the spirit, asketh according to the will of God, wherefore it is done even as he asketh.

WHAT DOES PRIESTHOOD MEAN IN OUR CHURCH?

MAGNIFY YOUR CALLING

1 Corinthians 7:32 But I would, brethren, that ye magnify your calling.

D&C 23:4d Attend to thy calling and thou shalt have wherewith to magnify thine office, and to expound all Scriptures.

D&C 83:6c for whoso is faithful unto the obtaining these two priesthoods of which I have spoken, and the magnifying their calling, are sanctified by the Spirit unto the renewing of their bodies

WHAT DOES PRIESTHOOD MEAN IN OUR CHURCH?

MAGNIFY YOUR CALLING (cont.)

D&C 85:21b-e 21b And I give unto you a commandment, that you shall 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 is expedient for you to understand; 21c of things both in heaven, and in earth, and under the earth; things which have been; things which are; things which must shortly come to pass; 21d 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; e and a knowledge also of countries, and of kingdoms, **that ye may be prepared**

in all things when I shall send you again, to magnify the

calling whereunto I have called you, and the mission with

which I have commissioned you.

WHAT DOES PRIESTHOOD MEAN IN OUR CHURCH?

MAGNIFY YOUR CALLING (cont.)

D&C 117:5 Verily, I say unto you, If these my servants will henceforth magnify their calling in honor before me, they shall become men of power and excellent wisdom in the assemblies of my people.

D&C 135:2c and such unity will prevail if those holding the priesthood will remember their commission to preach the gospel, and each officer will strive to discharge his own duty and magnify his calling.

WHAT DOES PRIESTHOOD MEAN IN OUR CHURCH?

MAGNIFY YOUR CALLING (cont.)

Do I magnify my calling?

Do I answer the call?

Do I sacrifice?

Do I love the sheep?

Do I serve in my calling?

Part 2

What is an Elder?

WHAT IS AN ELDER?

The title “elder” can mean several things to many people:

1. Tribal Leader



2. Lay Ministry



3. Our Church

1. Melchizedek Priesthood
2. Office of Elder

Melchizedek Priesthood (elder)					
Prophet	Apostle	Bishop	Patriarch	High Priest	Seventy
					Elder

D&C 125:8 The word elders used in the law signifies those holding the Melchisedec priesthood only; all **classes and orders of this priesthood are characterized by the word elder.**

WHAT IS AN ELDER?

AUTHORITY

Priesthood authority is from the beginning of time.

Adam → Enoch → Noah → Abraham → Moses



Jesus → Apostles → Joseph Smith → Current Day

D&C 104:18 The order of this priesthood was confirmed to be handed down from **father to son**



Priesthood authority is also conferred (or passed) by one having authority unto another.

WHAT IS AN ELDER?

AUTHORITY (cont.)

D&C 17:16a No person is to be ordained to any office in this church, where there is a regularly organized branch of the same, without the vote of that church;



D&C 42:4 Again I say unto you that it shall not be given to anyone to go forth to preach my gospel, or to build up my church, except he be ordained by someone who has authority, and it is known to the church that he has authority...

WHAT IS AN ELDER?

AUTHORITY (cont.)

Can we be an EMT or a Sheriff Deputy if we want?



LIFE CHANGING

In service to the community everywhere, all the time.

WHAT IS AN ELDER?

LIFE CHANGING (cont.)

“Priesthood is the power of God operating in men chosen of him, ordained and set apart according to the provisions of his law, for the ministering of his gospel of salvation to mankind, in word and in ordinance. **This Priesthood or Power carries with it Authority to act in Christ’s stead,** by faith in him, in any and all matters which are expedient to his will.”

Elder Charles Fry, The Nature of Priesthood (Ch. 1, pg. 5) Herald House (1950)

WHAT IS AN ELDER?

SACRIFICE

D&C 120:3c the high priests and elders holding the same priesthood are the standing ministers of the church, having the watchcare of the membership and nurturing and sustaining them...

Mothers

WHAT IS AN ELDER?

SACRIFICE (cont.)

Ezekiel 34:7-10 7 Therefore, ye shepherds, hear the word of the Lord; 8 As I live, saith the Lord God, surely because **my flock became a prey**, and my flock became meat to every beast of the field, **because there was no shepherd, neither did my shepherds search for my flock**, but **the shepherds fed themselves, and fed not my flock**; 9 Therefore, O ye shepherds, hear the word of the Lord; 10 **Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I am against the shepherds; and I will require my flock at their hand**, and cause them to cease from feeding the flock; **neither shall the shepherds feed themselves anymore**, for I will deliver my flock from their mouth, that they may not be meat for them.

WHAT IS AN ELDER?

SACRIFICE (cont.)

D&C 104:44a-b 44a Wherefore, now **let every man learn his duty, and to act in the office in which he is appointed, in all diligence.** 44b 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. Even so. Amen.

“Elders are spiritual ministers, the pastors, the chief shepherds in all the ordinances and functions of the church.”

Elder Charles Fry, The Nature of Priesthood (pgs. 38-50) Herald House (1950)

WHAT IS AN ELDER?

SACRIFICE (cont.)

1 Peter 5:1-6 1 The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed; 2 **Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly**; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; 3 Neither as being lords over God's heritage, **but being ensamples to the flock**. 4 And **when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away**. 5 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility; for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. 6 **Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time**.

WHAT IS AN ELDER?

SACRIFICE (cont.)

The purpose and power of priesthood is

firstly **spiritual**, then

secondly **physical** in nature.

(Physical only to the extent necessary to perform the actions
required by commandment by God to increase the spiritual
condition of His people)

Servant to God's people is both

WHAT IS AN ELDER?

SACRIFICE (cont.)

Matthew 25:13-31 (Parable of the Talents)

- “And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway went on his journey.”
- Servant with **five** multiplied **to ten**
- Servant with **two** multiplied **to four**
- Servant with **one** **buried the talent and did nothing**
- “And his lord shall say unto his servants, Cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”



WHAT DOES PRIESTHOOD MEAN IN OUR CHURCH?

SACRIFICE (cont.)

Do I sacrifice for the saints?

Do I answer the call?

Do I give of myself?

Do I love the sheep?

Do I serve in my calling?

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WHAT IS AN ELDER?

D&C 104:3-6 3a The office of an elder comes under the priesthood of Melchisedec.

3b The **Melchisedec priesthood holds the right of presidency, and has power and authority over all the offices in the church**, in all ages of the world, to administer in spiritual things.

4 The presidency of the high priesthood, after the order of Melchisedec, have a right to officiate in all the offices in the church.

5 High priests, after the order of the Melchisedec priesthood, have a right to officiate in their own standing, under the direction of the Presidency, in administering spiritual things, and also in the office of an elder, priest (of the Levitical order), teacher, deacon, and member.

6 An elder has a right to officiate in his stead when the high priest is not present.

WHAT IS AN ELDER?

D&C 104:7 The high priest and elder are to administer in spiritual things,
agreeably to the covenants and commandments of the church;
and **they have a right to officiate in all these offices of the church when there are no higher authorities present.**

Part 3

What is the spiritual calling of Elders in the church?

WHAT IS THE SPIRITUAL CALLING OF ELDERS IN THE CHURCH?

SPIRITUAL PRESIDING

1. Elders are to see with their spiritual eyes
2. Spiritual preparation is paramount
3. Closer to God means better ability to serve
4. The Lord doesn't call perfect men, but calls men to perfection

Helaman 2:31

WHAT IS THE SPIRITUAL CALLING OF ELDERS IN THE CHURCH?

SPIRITUAL PRESIDING (cont.)

No man can speak or act on behalf of Jesus Christ if He is not full of the Spirit of God, otherwise, he is merely operating under the spirit and wisdom of man.

WHAT IS THE SPIRITUAL CALLING OF ELDERS IN THE CHURCH?

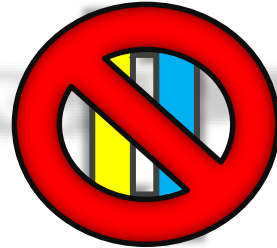
SPIRITUAL PRESIDING (cont.)

1 Corinthian 2:9-14 9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. 10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit; for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. 11 **For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, except he has the Spirit of God.** 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. 13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which **the Holy Ghost teacheth;** comparing spiritual things with spiritual. 14 But **the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness unto him;** neither can he know them, **because they are spiritually discerned.**

WHAT IS THE SPIRITUAL CALLING OF ELDERS IN THE CHURCH?

SPIRITUAL PRESIDING (cont.)

GOD



Elder

WHAT IS THE SPIRITUAL CALLING OF ELDERS IN THE CHURCH?

SPIRITUAL PRESIDING (cont.)

Galatians 5:16-26 16 This I say then, **Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.** 17 **For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh;** and these are contrary the one to the other; so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. 18 But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. 19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these, Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, **lasciviousness**, 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, **variance**, emulations, wrath, **strife**, seditions, heresies, 21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, **revellings**, and such like; of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 **But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,** 23 **Meekness, temperance;** against such there is no law. 24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. 25 **If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.** 26 **Let us not be desirous of vainglory, provoking one another, envying one another.**

WHAT IS THE SPIRITUAL CALLING OF ELDERS IN THE CHURCH?

HIGH CALLING

The full demonstration of the gift, authority and power of the office of Elder, of the Melchizedek priesthood, can only come when Elders sanctify themselves and walk in purity and holiness before the Lord.

WHAT IS THE SPIRITUAL CALLING OF ELDERS IN THE CHURCH?

HIGH CALLING (cont.)

D&C 83:3b-c 3b And this greater priesthood administereth the gospel and holdeth the key of the mysteries of the kingdom, even the key of the knowledge of God. 3c Therefore, in the ordinances thereof the power of godliness is manifest; and without the ordinances thereof, and the authority of the priesthood, the power of godliness is not manifest unto men in the flesh; for without this, no man can see the face of God, even the Father, and live.

This is an **amazingly serious** and **terribly daunting** responsibility!

WHAT IS THE SPIRITUAL CALLING OF ELDERS IN THE CHURCH?

HIGH CALLING (cont.)

D&C 104:9a-9b 9a The power and authority of the higher, or Melchizedek, priesthood, is to hold the keys of all the spiritual blessings of the church; to have the privilege of receiving the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven; to have the heavens opened unto them; 9b to commune with the general assembly and church of the Firstborn; and to enjoy the communion and presence of God the Father, and Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant.

All Elders are called unto this holy calling and carry the burden and responsibility of God's desires for them and His people.

Part 4

What are some of the physical / logistical callings of Elder?

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE PHYSICAL / LOGISTICAL CALLINGS OF ELDER?

The logistics of a service can really get in the way and chase away the Spirit of a service if done improperly.

Technology

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE PHYSICAL / LOGISTICAL CALLINGS OF ELDER?

D&C 17:8b-9 8b An apostle is an elder, and it is his calling to **baptize**, and to **ordain** other elders, priests, teachers, and deacons, and to **administer bread and wine--the emblems** of the flesh and blood of Christ-- 8c and **to confirm those who are baptized into the church, by the laying on of hands for the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost**, according to the Scriptures; 8d and to **teach, expound, exhort**, baptize, and watch over the church; 8e and to confirm the church by the laying on of the hands, and the giving of the Holy Ghost, 8f and to **take the lead of all meetings**. 9 The elders are to **conduct the meetings as they are led by the Holy Ghost**, according to the commandments and revelations of God.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE PHYSICAL / LOGISTICAL CALLINGS OF ELDER?

James 5:14-15 14 Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; 15 And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

D&C 42:12d And the elders of the church, two or more, shall be called, and shall pray for, and lay their hands upon them in my name; and if they die, they shall die unto me, and if they live, they shall live unto me.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE PHYSICAL / LOGISTICAL CALLINGS OF ELDER?

D&C 122:9b Where organization has been arranged and officers have been ordained and set in order; **the standing ministry in their order**; high priests, **elders**, priests, teachers, and deacons.

D&C 83:22 And, behold, the **high priests should travel, and also the elders**, and also the lesser priests; but the deacons and teachers should be appointed to watch over the church, to be standing ministers unto the church.

D&C 120:2a **A branch may be presided over by a** high priest, **an elder**, priest, teacher, or deacon, chosen and **sustained by the vote of the branch**.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE PHYSICAL / LOGISTICAL CALLINGS OF ELDER?

D&C 17:19 **Every member** of the church of Christ **having children, is to bring them unto the elders before the church, who are to lay their hands upon them in the name of Jesus Christ, and bless them** in his name.

D&C 42:5a 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 which is the fullness of the gospel;**

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE PHYSICAL / LOGISTICAL CALLINGS OF ELDER?

Responsibilities (non-ordinances):

- Teach
- Expound
- Exhort
- Watch over the church
- Take the lead in all meetings
- Preside and conduct meetings as led by the Holy Ghost
- To travel and preach the gospel
- Come together in conference
- Discuss and decide the direction of the church
- Serve on judicial courts of the church when required

1 Corinthians 12:31 ...covet
earnestly the best gifts.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE PHYSICAL / LOGISTICAL CALLINGS OF ELDER?

Responsibilities (ordinances):

- Bless children
- Administer to those who are sick
- Ordain other elders, priests, teachers or deacons
- Administer the sacrament
- Baptize
- Confirm those who are baptized

1 Corinthians 12:31
...covet earnestly
the best gifts.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE PHYSICAL / LOGISTICAL CALLINGS OF ELDER?

The following chart demonstrates in graphical format the differing duties of the offices of Elder of the Melchizedek priesthood and the offices of Priest, Teacher and Deacon of the Aaronic priesthood.

This helps to understand who is to be responsible and who can function in certain ordinances of the church.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE PHYSICAL / LOGISTICAL CALLINGS OF ELDER?

Exhibit A - Ordination

	Ordain Deacons	Ordain Teachers	Ordain Priests	Ordain Elders
Elder	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Priest	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Teacher	No	No	No	No
Deacon	No	No	No	No

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE PHYSICAL / LOGISTICAL CALLINGS OF ELDER?

Exhibit B - Presiding or taking lead of services

	Preside When High Priest Present	Preside When Elder Present	Preside When Priest Present - No Elder	Preside When Teacher Present - No Elder or Priest
Elder	No	Yes	No	No
Priest	No	No	Yes	No
Teacher	No	No	No	Yes
Deacon	No	No	No	No

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE PHYSICAL / LOGISTICAL CALLINGS OF ELDER?

Exhibit C - Who can perform certain ordinances of the church

	Perform Marriages	Serve Sacrament	Baptism	Confirmation	Administration	Bless Children
Elder	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Priest	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Teacher	No	No	No	No	No	No
Deacon	No	No	No	No	No	No

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE PHYSICAL / LOGISTICAL CALLINGS OF ELDER?

BLESSING OF CHILDREN



Considerations for the ordinance of laying on of hands for blessing of children:

- No specific prayers are required for this ordinance, only a blessing in the name of Jesus Christ. (D&C 17:19)
- Performed by two or more Melchizedek priesthood members. (D&C 17:19; tradition is two)
- Only one prayer is offered. (Tradition)
- Ordinance details to be reported to the church. (Branch Recorder)

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE PHYSICAL / LOGISTICAL CALLINGS OF ELDER?



ADMINISTRATION

Considerations for the ordinance of laying on of hands for the sick (administration):

- Ordinance is performed at the request of the sick person. (D&C 42:12; James 5:14)
- Is performed by two or more Melchizedek priesthood members of the church. (D&C 42:12; James 5:14)
- Is not the occasion for prophesying. (D&C 125:15)

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE PHYSICAL / LOGISTICAL CALLINGS OF ELDER?

ADMINISTRATION (cont.)



Considerations for the ordinance of laying on of hands for the sick (administration):

- Is to be performed without letting human sympathies interfere. (D&C 125:15)
- Oil is to be used. Consecrated olive oil is the tradition. (James 5:14; D&C 125:15)
- No specific prayers are required or commanded. Tradition has an anointing prayer and then a confirming prayer.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE PHYSICAL / LOGISTICAL CALLINGS OF ELDER?

BAPTISM



Considerations for the ordinance of baptism:

- Has the candidate reached the age of accountability of eight years old? (D&C 68:4)
- Has the candidate obtained a sufficient understanding of the gospel to make a knowledgeable decision to be baptized?
- Is the candidate willing to witness before the body of Christ? (Moroni 6)
- Does the candidate have parental/spousal consent? (D&C 111:4)

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE PHYSICAL / LOGISTICAL CALLINGS OF ELDER?

BAPTISM (cont.)



Considerations for the ordinance of baptism (cont.):

- Ensure candidate is properly immersed. (D&C 110:12)
- Use words provided for baptism. (D&C 17:21; 3 Nephi 5:25)
- Performed by a Melchizedek priesthood member or Priest. (D&C 17)
- As presider, consider logistics for the service ahead of time, such as setting, clothes changing, and service order.
- Ordinance details to be reported to the church. (Branch Recorder)

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE PHYSICAL / LOGISTICAL CALLINGS OF ELDER?

CONFIRMATION



Considerations for the ordinance of laying on of hands for confirmation:

- Has candidate received proper education in the gospel and doctrine of Christ? (D&C 17:18b)
- Laying on of hands to give the gift of the Holy Ghost is fulfilling the greatest promise God has made for us while in this life. (D&C 17:8)
- Considered as concluding the process of membership in the church and citizenship in the kingdom of heaven (born of God).

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE PHYSICAL / LOGISTICAL CALLINGS OF ELDER?

CONFIRMATION (cont.)



Considerations for the ordinance of laying on of hands for confirmation:

- Performed by two or more Melchizedek priesthood members by power of Holy Ghost within them. (Tradition is two)
- Preparation should be made before hand for the prayer to be offered by at least one Melchizedek priesthood member. Additional prayers are also acceptable.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE PHYSICAL / LOGISTICAL CALLINGS OF ELDER?

CONFIRMATION (cont.)



Considerations for the ordinance of laying on of hands for confirmation:

- No required wording for this prayer. Usually the words indicating the giving the Holy Ghost and conferring rights and privileges are used for the benefit and knowledge of the candidate, however these are not required in scripture.
- As presider, consider logistics for the service ahead of time, such as setting, microphone, chair, and service order.
- Ordinance details to be reported to the church. (Branch Recorder)

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE PHYSICAL / LOGISTICAL CALLINGS OF ELDER?

THE LORD'S SUPPER



Considerations for the ordinance of the Lord's Supper:

- Membership should partake often. (D&C 119:5b)
- Bread and wine are to be prepared and then left uncovered when blessed. (D&C 119:5d-e)
- Specific prayers are required over the bread and the wine. (D&C 17:22-23)

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE PHYSICAL / LOGISTICAL CALLINGS OF ELDER?

THE LORD'S SUPPER (cont.)



Considerations for the ordinance of the Lord's Supper:

- We are "close" communionist - meaning those who have made the same covenant in the waters of baptism by one having authority, recognized by this branch, may partake. (Mormon 4:95; 3 Nephi 8:60-68)
- Let those that partake of the emblems cease contention. (D&C 119:5g)
- Emblems served by Melchizedek priesthood members and Priests. (D&C 17:8b; 10a)

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE PHYSICAL / LOGISTICAL CALLINGS OF ELDER?

MARRIAGE



Considerations for the ordinance of marriage:

- Marriage, in this church, is defined as a covenant until death between one man and one woman. (D&C 111)
- Performed in a public meeting. (D&C 111)
- Regulated by laws and ceremonies. (D&C 111)
- Should be celebrated with prayer and thanksgiving. (D&C 111)
- Should be between members of the same church, however it is not forbidden to marry some who is not a member of our church. (D&C 111)

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE PHYSICAL / LOGISTICAL CALLINGS OF ELDER?

MARRIAGE (cont.)



Considerations for the ordinance of marriage:

- Is to be performed by member of the Melchizedek priesthood or a Priest. (D&C 111:1c)
- Only one agreement required with specific wording. (D&C 111:2)
- Ordinance details to be reported to the church. (Branch Recorder)

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE PHYSICAL / LOGISTICAL CALLINGS OF ELDER?

ORDINATION



Considerations for the ordinance of laying on of hands for ordination:

- Calls are only valid if they come through authorized channels. (D&C 125:14)
- Vote of membership is required. (D&C 17:6; 42:4: 125:4)
- No minister can ordain a man to an office greater than he possesses. (D&C 17)
- Ordained by the power of the Holy Ghost within those ordaining. (D&C 17:12)

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE PHYSICAL / LOGISTICAL CALLINGS OF ELDER?

ORDINATION (cont.)



Considerations for the ordinance of laying on of hands for ordination:

- No set prayers, only directed by spirit of wisdom and revelation of those ordaining. (D&C 120:2)
- Ordination performed by two or more ordained and authorized priesthood. (Tradition is two)
- Ordinance details to be reported to the church. (Branch Recorder)

Conclusion

Priesthood Class on Elder

CONCLUSION

The office of Elder is of the Melchizedek order, a priesthood order without beginning of days nor end of years.

This priesthood is to function in a spiritual manner with power and authority from God, through the Holy Ghost that is present within the priesthood ordained unto this office.

CONCLUSION

Elders are called to uplift, enlighten, and unify God's people through their authority and power to commune with the church of the firstborn, Jesus Christ and God the Father. In order to do this, the Elders must purify their hearts and humble themselves before God.

Only in humility and repentance can this office function in the manner that is required, bring the ministry so desperately needed, to be led by the Holy Ghost and preside in all areas of their lives.

CONCLUSION

The Lord wishes to pour out a blessing on His people and priesthood if they are willing to receive and abide His law.

The purpose and work of this ministry culminates with the redemption of Zion; for the benefit of the saints and the whole world.

CONCLUSION

D&C 102:3c-f 3c Therefore, in consequence of the transgression of my people, it is expedient in me that mine elders should wait for a little season for the redemption of Zion, **that they themselves may be prepared, and 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;

3d and **this can not be** brought to pass **until mine elders are endowed with power from on high**; 3e for, behold, I have prepared a great endowment and blessing to be poured out upon them, inasmuch as they are faithful, and continue in humility before me;

3f therefore, it is expedient in me that mine elders should wait for a little season, for the redemption of Zion; for, behold, **I do not require at their hands to fight the battles of Zion**; for, as I said in a former commandment, even so will I fulfill, **I will fight your battles.**

THE END

Questions?