

The Oath and Covenant of the Priesthood

A gospel covenant is a holy contract.

“God in his good pleasure fixes the terms, which man accepts.” (*Bible Dictionary, LDS ed., “covenant”.*)

The two parties to the priesthood covenant are man and God.

Man covenants to do certain things or meet certain conditions;

God cites promises that he will give in return.

Man’s Covenant

1. **Receive the Melchizedek Priesthood in Good Faith** - D&C 84:35-38
2. **Magnify Callings** - D&C 84:33
 - ⇒ “Ordination to the priesthood is a prerequisite to receiving (blessings), but it does not guarantee them. For a man actually to obtain them, he must faithfully discharge the obligation which is placed upon him when he receives the Priesthood.” (*Marion G. Romney, in Conference Report, April 1962, p. 17.*)
 - ⇒ One magnifies a calling . . .
 - By learning one’s duty and executing it fully
 - D&C 107:99-100
 - By giving one’s best effort in assigned fields of labor
 - By consecrating one’s time, talents, and means to the Lord’s work as called upon by our leaders and the whisperings of the Spirit. (*Spencer W. Kimball, Ensign, March 1985, p. 5.*)
 - By teaching and exemplifying truth
 - ⇒ Jacob, the Book of Mormon prophet, testified, “We did magnify our office unto the Lord, taking upon us the responsibility, [teaching] them the word of God with all diligence; . . . [and] laboring with our might.” (*Jacob 1:19*)
3. **Obey the Commandments** - D&C 84:43
 - ⇒ No commandment is required of the gospel is nonessential. Each has its place, and all are to be respected. Not one is to be trifled with or placed aside as inconvenient.
4. **Live by Every Word of God** – D&C 84:44
 - ⇒ Words of eternal life come from one source: God. They are made available to us through the fountain of the holy scriptures and the fountain of living prophets and reconfirmed by personal revelation through the power of the Holy Ghost.

God’s Promises and Oath – Hebrews 6:13-17

1. **We will be Sanctified by the Spirit** – D&C 84:33
 - ⇒ On one occasion, President Hugh B. Brown testified that President David O. McKay had been sanctified by the Spirit unto the renewing of his body. And, he added, “Some of the rest of us are better off today than we were many years ago so far as physical health is concerned – and we attribute that fact to [the Lord’s] blessing.” (*In Conference Report, April 1963, p. 90.*)
 - ⇒ Many of us have felt the influence of this “renewal promise.” Without it, scores of our assignments might have gone unfinished.
2. **We will be Numbered with the Elect of God** – D&C 84:34
 - ⇒ Elder Bruce R. McConkie explains: “These are the portion of church members who are striving with all their hearts to keep the fullness of the gospel law in this life so that they can become inheritors of the fulness of gospel rewards in the life to come. (*Mormon Doctrine, 2d ed., Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1966, p. 217.*)

⇒ We do not become saints automatically by entering the waters of baptism. We become saints, in the true sense of the word, as we live saintly lives and cultivate Christlike attributes. Similarly, we do not become the elect of God instantaneously by receiving the priesthood. Such honor will come only so fast as we remember and perform according to the priesthood covenant.

3. **We will be Given All that God Has** – D&C 84:38