

According to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, repentance plays a major role in every member's salvation. LDS scriptures declare:

"Nevertheless, he that repents and does the commandments of the Lord shall be forgiven; 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." (D&C 1:32-33)

The big question is, if the LDS Church is true, repentance should be something that can **actually** be achieved. Have you met the requirements of repentance as defined by the LDS Church? Take this quiz and find out.

Quiz

1. **True or False?** According to the *Doctrine and Covenants*, people who repent of their sins, forsake their sin.
2. **True or False?** True repentance involves keeping the commandments.
3. **True or False?** In order to live with Heavenly Father you must stop sinning.
4. **True or False?** True repentance means never repeating that sin again.
5. **True or False?** A crucial test of repentance is abandonment of the sin.
6. **True or False?** If you hope to achieve exaltation in the next life, you must overcome your sin in this life.
7. **True or False?** Repenting of only some sins never results in complete forgiveness.

Quiz Answers

1. **True:** According to the Doctrine and Covenants, people who repent of their sins, forsake their sin. D&C 58:42,43 says, "Behold, he who has repented of his sins, the same is forgiven, and I, the Lord, remember them no more. By this ye may know if a man repenteth of his sins—behold, he will confess them and **forsake** them."
2. **True:** True repentance involves keeping the commandments. The LDS Church manual *Gospel Principles* states, "To make our repentance complete we must keep the commandments of the Lord." (1992 ed., p. 125)
3. **True:** In order to live with Heavenly Father you must stop sinning. Page 67 of the LDS Church manual *Gospel Fundamentals*, insists, "Our Father in heaven does not sin, and He does not allow people who sin to live with Him. To live with Him, we must repent of our sins. To repent means to feel sorry for our sins and **stop** doing them."
4. **True:** True repentance means never repeating the same sin again. In an unnumbered tract published by the LDS Church titled *Repentance Brings Forgiveness*, it states, "The forsaking of sin must be a permanent one. True repentance does not permit making the same mistake again." (1984)
5. **True:** A crucial test of repentance is abandonment of sin. Spencer W. Kimball, the 12th President of the LDS Church, declared, "There is one crucial test of repentance. This is abandonment of the sin." (*The Miracle of Forgiveness*, p. 163. Also cited in *Doctrines of the Gospel Student Manual: Religion 231 and 232*, p. 40)

6. **True:** If you hope to achieve exaltation in the next life, you must overcome your sin in this life. Spencer W. Kimball said, "Christ became perfect through overcoming. Only as we overcome shall we become perfect and move toward godhood. As I have indicated previously, the time to do this is **now**, in mortality." (*The Miracle of Forgiveness*, p. 210)
7. **True:** Repenting of only some sins never results in complete forgiveness. Page 212 of the *Miracle of Forgiveness* reads, "...incomplete repentance never brought complete forgiveness."

How Did You Do?

Perhaps your knowledge of the LDS faith enabled you to get each question correct; however, how are you doing when it comes to the requirements set forth in the quotations above?

For instance, if D&C 58:43 demands you must forsake your sin, the logical question is, **have you?** If not, can you honestly say that you have completely repented according to the LDS standard? Can you say before God that you have never repeated a past mistake?

If complete repentance involves keeping the commandments, how many commandments must you keep? And how often must you keep them? All of them, all of the time? Or some of them, some of the time? Do you keep all of the commandments all the time? President Kimball insisted that the only way you can have the assurance that you are forgiven is if you are "living all the commandments" (*Miracle of Forgiveness*, p. 208). Are you doing that?

Have you passed what President Kimball called the "crucial test of repentance?" Have you abandoned all of your sin? If not, could it be correctly concluded that your repentance is incomplete and forgiveness has eluded you?

Do you repent every day? On page 127 of the LDS Church manual *Gospel Principles* (1992 ed.), it states, "The prophets have declared that '**this life** is the time for...' (Continued on back)

men to prepare to meet God' (Alma 34:32). We should repent now, every day... By repenting every day and having the Lord forgive our sins, we will experience the daily process of becoming perfect."

While on the surface this may seem like sound advice, it actually contradicts page 148 of the *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*. Here, Joseph Smith said, "Daily transgression and daily repentance is **not** that which is pleasing in the sight of God."

If you find yourself repenting everyday, doesn't this prove that you have not really, or "completely repented" as explained by both Mormon scripture and Mormon leaders? Why would people who have forsaken all of their sin and kept all of the commandments need to repent at all? The fact is, if D&C 58:43 is true, people who repent every day only prove that they have not completely repented and are not qualified for exaltation.

President Kimball elaborated on Alma 34:32 when he wrote, "the time to act is now, in this mortal life. One cannot with impunity delay his compliance with God's commandments" (*Miracle*, p. 10). Do you see a day "in this mortal life" when you will no longer need to repent because you are in complete compliance with all of God's commandments?

Perhaps you are trying your best. That is commendable, but the problem is President Kimball also said, "Trying is not sufficient. Nor is repentance complete when one merely tries to abandon sin (*Miracle*, p. 164)."

If you are LDS 1st Nephi 3:7 may have crossed your mind. It says; "...the Lord giveth no commandments unto the children of men, save he shall prepare a way for them that they may accomplish the thing which he commandeth." If this is true, and God has commanded you to stop sinning, why haven't you stopped? If you have not stopped, you really have not repented. If you have not really repented, you have not really been forgiven. This is bad news. How are you going to get to heaven if you can't meet the requirements?

Perhaps you may try to appeal to the grace of God. Pay close attention Moroni 10:32. It says, "Yea, come unto Christ, and be perfected in him, and deny yourselves of **all** ungodliness, and **if** ye shall deny yourselves of **all** ungodliness, and love God with all your might, mind and strength, **then** is his grace suffic-

-ient for you..." This is not good news. When do you get the grace you need to perform the requirements? After you "deny yourselves of all ungodliness." If you have not done that you don't get the grace.

2nd Nephi 25:23 says, "...for we know that it is by grace that we are saved, **after** all we **can** do." When do you get the grace? "After all you can do." What is all you can do? Remember 1st Nephi 3:7 said God would never give you a commandment you can't keep. So all you **can** do is stop sinning. Have you stopped sinning? Has your Bishop? Can you name one person in your ward, stake, or the whole LDS church who has met these requirements?

What is the Point?

Gospel means good news. After examining the gospel of the LDS church there does not seem to be much good news. In fact, it can be rightly called an "impossible gospel." It is a counterfeit gospel!

It is true, Jesus did say "...be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect (Matt. 5:48)." Notice it does not say "try" to be perfect. It says "be" perfect. It also says "as your Father in heaven in perfect." How perfect is the Father? He never sinned. That is the Biblical standard if you want to earn your own salvation. The good news found in the Bible is that when you realize you can't meet the standard, Jesus will do it all for you. The real gospel is found in the Bible, not the LDS church. Below is the real good news.

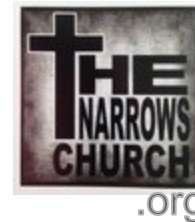
"Now we know that what ever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become **guilty** before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the **knowledge of sin**. But now the righteousness of God **apart** from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the **righteousness of God, through faith** in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory [standard] of God, being justified **freely by His grace** through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus (Romans 3:19-24). If you would like to know more please contact me.

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