



“Seek Ye Earnestly the Best Gifts”

Show Notes

Podcast General Description:

Follow Him: A *Come, Follow Me* Podcast with Hank Smith & John Bytheway

Do you ever feel that preparing for your weekly *Come, Follow Me* lesson falls short? Join hosts Hank Smith and John Bytheway as they interview experts to make your study for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' *Come, Follow Me* course not only enjoyable but original and educational. If you are looking for resources to make your study fresh, faithful, and fun--no matter your age--then join us every Sunday.

Podcast Episode 19 Description:

Part 1:

Have you ever felt everything you tried was going wrong? In these sections of the Doctrine and Covenants, the Fantastic Four (Parley, Ziba, Oliver, and Peter) are called on a mission that may have seemed like a failure but was instrumental in creating a worldwide church. Join Hank and John with Dr. Ron Bartholomew as they discuss how the Church is open to all, how God doesn't have any favorites, and why we all have spiritual gifts (and what they may look like).

Part 2:

We return to discuss why spiritual gifts are given to every person, regardless of Church membership. And our valiant heroes (men and women) wonder if shaking, rolling, and other dramatic acts are from God. We discuss how God blesses us to rise to the challenges placed before us, and Dr. Bartholomew shares a powerful testimony of his love of the Gospel and the Lord, even with his Parkinson's Disease diagnosis.

Timecode:

Part 1

- *00:00* Introduction to the Podcast
- *00:40* Introduction of Dr. Ron Bartholomew
- *02:38* Sections 46-48 Overview
- *07:59* Joseph Smith Works on the New Translation of the Bible
- *08:34* Allow All into Sacrament Meetings
- *12:20* Spiritual Gifts are Given to Avoid Deceit
- *14:27* The First Gift is Knowing Jesus Lives
- *17:57* The Gift to Believe the Testimony of Others
- *22:26* More Spiritual Gifts Discussed
- *27:18* We Have Gifts to Bless Others
- *28:27* Some Callings Come With Specific Gifts
- *31:41* Appreciate Others Because They Will Receive Gifts as They Serve
- *32:18* John Tells Story of Becoming Primary Chorister
- *35:48* Defining Diversity of Operations as a Gift
- *40:54* The Gift of Wisdom
- *44:02* The Difference Between Wisdom and Knowledge
- *44:34* End of Part I

Part 2

- *00:00* Welcome to Part II
- *00:07* List of Additional Spiritual Gifts
- *02:22* Marvin J Ashton Listed Additional Gifts to Bless Others
- *03:40* President Holds All Spiritual Gifts
- *04:38* How Bishop's Use the Gift of Discernment
- *08:43* Sustaining Bishops and Edward Partridge as First Bishop
- *10:35* Ask For Gifts to Strengthen Others and Our Own Weaknesses
- *14:23* How the Lord Has Blessed Groups With Specific Gifts
- *16:25* John Whitmer Called as Church Historian
- *19:00* The Lord Encourages Early Saints, Even Those That Leave
- *21:02* Dr. Bartholomew's Testimony (and His Parkinson's Diagnosis)
- *21:35* The Importance of Records
- *28:48* Section 48 and Where the Saints Will Eventually Reside
- *32:34* Saints Were Valiant in Kirtland Knowing It Was Temporary
- *35:31* We Come From Goodly Pioneers
- *39:16* Dr. Bartholomew's Testimony
- *45:00* End of Part II

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Biographical Information:



Ronald E. Bartholomew currently serves as an instructor at the Orem University Institute of Religion, where he teaches Christian history, LDS Church history, and courses on the standard works of the LDS Church. He received a bachelor's degree and a master's degree from Brigham Young University and a doctorate in sociology of education from the University of Buckingham in London, England.

He has published scholarly articles in academic journals in the United States and Europe and has written several chapters in various published volumes. His research interests include nineteenth-century missionary work in Victorian England as well as assorted topics in ancient scripture and Church history. He and his wife, Kristen, have seven children and eight grandchildren.

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EPISODE 19 • PART I

Dr. Ronald E. Bartholomew



D&C 46-48

Hank Smith:	<u>00:01</u>	Welcome to followHIM, a weekly podcast dedicated to helping individuals and families with their <i>Come, Follow Me</i> study. I'm Hank Smith
John Bytheway:	<u>00:09</u>	And I'm John Bytheway.
Hank Smith:	<u>00:10</u>	We love to learn.
John Bytheway:	<u>00:11</u>	We love to laugh.
Hank Smith:	<u>00:13</u>	We want to learn and laugh with you.
John Bytheway:	<u>00:15</u>	As together, we followHIM.
Hank Smith:	<u>00:19</u>	Hello my friends, my name is Hank Smith. I am here with my marvelous co-host, John Bytheway, welcome John.
John Bytheway:	<u>00:28</u>	I am so excited to hear the adjective each week, it reminds me of a Church History cookbook actually, called <i>The Marvelous Work In A Blender</i> . So, thank you Hank.
Hank Smith:	<u>00:40</u>	<i>The Marvelous Work In A Blender</i> . Oh, I've never heard of that. I've known you for a long time and I have not heard that joke before. We are hosts of followHIM, thank you for joining us. We are excited to be here today. Every week, we interview one of the Church's great minds, and this week we have with us a friend of mine, we've been friends since the 1900s, his name is Dr. Ron Bartholomew. John, tell us about Dr. Bartholomew.
John Bytheway:	<u>01:11</u>	Oh, I'm so glad to be here with Ron because this goes back into like you said, the 1900s in our EFY days and everything. Just so glad to have Ron here, and this bio, he's going to help us if anything in here is outdated. But he has been an Instructor at the Orem Institute of Religion for a long time, so that's the Institute, as part of the Utah Valley University, where he

teaches Christian History, LDS Church History, courses in the standard works. He's received a bachelor's and a master's degree from BYU and a doctorate in the Sociology of Education from the University of Buckingham in London, England.

He's published in scholarly journals, articles, academic journals in the United States and Europe, and has written several chapters in various published columns. His research interests include 19th century missionary work in Victorian, England, as well as the topics in ancient scripture in church history. He and his wife, Kristen have seven children and 11 grandchildren. And I just want to add, just get on Google and google Deseret News, October 16th 2020, or maybe just put Ron Bartholomew. There's a wonderful article in there about his personal experiences in the book of Job, and you will love that and you'll get to know Ron a little bit better if you look that up.

Hank Smith: 02:34

Ron, welcome to followHim.

Ron Bartholomew: 02:36

Thank you, it's good to be here.

Hank Smith: 02:38

Ron, you and I have had conversations over the last probably 25 years that have literally changed the way I teach, the way I think about the gospel. I'm sure that you have these types of conversations all the time. In fact, I think there are thousands of UVU students listening to this episode, precisely because they saw your name on the episode list. We are so excited to be here. Let's jump in and see what happens here, I'm excited to learn from you Ron. We're studying, this week, Sections 46 through 48 of the Doctrine and Covenants.

They're all received in March of 1831. The Church is almost a year old, it's now made its first major move to Ohio, they don't know that they have a lot of major moves in front of them as a result of four missionaries called to preach to the native Americans, Oliver Cowdery, Parley Pratt, Peter Whitmer Jr. and Ziba or Ziba Peterson, depending on who you ask. Joseph has lived in Ohio, now for two months, members are still coming from New York to join him. So Ron, now with that introduction, what have these first two months been like in Ohio and what leads up to these sections?

Ron Bartholomew: 03:54

Well, the first ones in Ohio have been cold. Joseph moved them up February 1st 1831, so they've been cold. And he's been trying to gather the Saints the best he can. Most of the Saints won't arrive until May. So it's just still March, so most of the Saints are still coming from New York, but he's moved into the home and store of the-

John Bytheway: 04:22 Whitney's.

Ron Bartholomew: 04:22 Yeah, the Whitney's. And he is doing the translation in the Bible, so he's been very busy in current Ohio, testing the Bible, people knew, and waiting for the Saints to come from New York. So a lot's going on.

Hank Smith: 04:35 Yeah. And he's meeting all these converts. They've got to be so excited. Well, how would you like that, John, you join the Church and then the prophet moves into your town. That would be interesting, he's moving here.

Ron Bartholomew: 04:50 Yeah.

Hank Smith: 04:51 So those of you missionaries out there, if you could just baptize full cities, maybe we'll move the Church there.

Ron Bartholomew: 04:59 In addition to that, he was only 25-years -ld. So a lot of people were surprised by that.

Hank Smith: 05:05 He's a kid. I remember thinking I was 25 and oh man, I had it. I knew what was happening, I look back going, "What was wrong with you?" John, what were you going to say?

John Bytheway: 05:16 I like this idea we've heard several times, is at three times so far? "Go to the Ohio." And now there's so many there, I'm just wondering, this maybe was all in the design of the Lord all along, but so many because of that mission to the Lamanites, that's what it was called, but the outcome was really all these converts in Ohio. Do you think the Lord moved them there because there were so many converts there? Or did he want them there all along? I guess that's a hard one to answer but are the bulk of members in Ohio now?

Ron Bartholomew: 05:50 The bulk of the members are in Ohio but more than that, Ohio is going to become the headquarters of the Church. So you got two headquarters now, you got Pennsylvania which is the capital of the United States at this time, before Washington D.C. You have Pennsylvania and you've got Ohio and you got two of these going on. At the same time you've got the United States of America being started and you got the Church being started. And the Church's capital moved to Salt Lake but not for five years, and the nation's capital moves to Washington DC. But for the meantime, this is a place for starting a new nation, not just a city, a nation.

Hank Smith: 06:28 John, that's not something we have talked about a lot on the podcast so far is, what's happening in the country at the time. It's Andrew Jackson, he's the President of the United States. So that's fascinating Ron, thank you for bringing that up. I think John, that's something we need to keep incorporating, is the idea of like, "What's happening in the country?" Because Ron's right. The United States does not look like the United States of 2021 by any means and if we don't keep that in mind, we might lose sight.

John Bytheway: 07:04 I remember Sister Susan Easton Black bringing up, at the beginning of one of these, now there's 26 States in the United States. It's like, "Oh yeah. Well, yeah, that's true." And sometimes I love to show, I used to have this big foldout book called *The Timeline of World History* or something, and I love to show the youth this long time of apostasy and then to show how quickly once the United States wants the Declaration of Independence happened, Constitution, Bill of Rights ratified 1791 and 14 years later, I mean, in this tiny space on my chart, Joseph Smith born Sharon, Vermont. And so I do think it's a good thing to talk about the United States coming to be guaranteed religious freedom. It didn't seem to go so well enough and stuff and how quickly those coincide.

Hank Smith: 07:59 The other thing we can't forget is Joseph Smith is also doing his work on the translation of the Bible.

Ron Bartholomew: 08:03 That's right. He began to work on a translation in the Bible about when he first got there, and they've been working on it for several years now.

Hank Smith: 08:12 Right. And they switched, I mean, at the end of Section 45 it jumped to the New Testament, because he had been doing the Old Testament.

Ron Bartholomew: 08:20 That's right.

John Bytheway: 08:21 Section 45 was all that Matthew 24 language.

Ron Bartholomew: 08:24 That's right.

Hank Smith: 08:25 Yeah. Let's jump right into these versus... Ron, what can you tell us about the Lord's message to the Saints in Section 46?

Ron Bartholomew: 08:35 Well, a lot, probably more than you want.

Hank Smith: 08:40 Okay. Give us all of it Ron.

Ron Bartholomew: 08:43 The third quarterly General Conference of the Church was held at the home of Peter Whitmer Sr. at Fayette on January 2nd, 1831. So just in January of that year, they had the third quarter of the General Conference. And at that conference, they said that they've got to move to Ohio. So late in January, they made the trip, Joseph and Emma do but with the sleigh to meet, guess who? - Joseph Knight Sr. Emma had moved seven times in the four years they were married and was six months pregnant and was not designed to move again. She didn't want to move but she does anyway. Between the end of January and the middle of May, most of the New York Saints saw the positions and migrated 300 miles to current Ohio and adjacent areas for that to begin. And this revelation was received on Tuesday, 8th of March, 1831.

In the beginning of the Church, well, in her infancy, the settlers used to exclude non-believers from their meetings, which caused them to marvel and converse with the matter because of where it was written in the Book of Mormon, including 24, verse 22 where it states, "And you shall not forbid any man coming in until when you shall meet together." And so they didn't know what to do so Joseph Smith inquires to the Lord and received Section 46 the day after he received Section 45. And they told the members of the Church that they should allow everyone into their meetings, if they want to, anyone who's sincere, but they should not provide the sacrament for them, that's still for the members of the Church, but they should at least allow them to attend the meetings.

Hank Smith: 10:15 That's interesting, because on our buildings right now is a big sign saying, "Visitors are welcome." And at the time, they were saying, "No, you've got to be a member if you want to come."

Ron Bartholomew: 10:25 But they changed it, this was really since revelation changed that.

Hank Smith: 10:28 I can see that's a legit question. We in an earlier podcast talked about them setting up, damming a little river to have baptisms and people come in mocking them during the baptism.

Ron Bartholomew: 10:40 Throwing rocks, the whole nine yards.

Hank Smith: 10:41 Just ruining the whole meeting and you're like, "Let's just have our members here because we want to have a lovely spiritual experience here." And you wouldn't want people coming in antagonizing you during the meeting. I can see why this would be a good question to ask.

Ron Bartholomew: 10:57 It was, but despite their feelings of wanting to keep people out and the Lord says, "No, bring them all in. We need to have everybody that wants to come be able to come." And so that's what they did.

John Bytheway: 11:08 It's very inclusionary where the Lord's like, "No, no, no, we're not an exclusive club here, we're opening up the doors and visitors are welcome." I wonder if today we do that a little bit, we kind of an exclusionary group and we don't say, "Hey, the doors are open to anyone."

Hank Smith: 11:33 "Hey, that's my pew. This has always been our family's pew."

Ron Bartholomew: 11:38 The problem today is we have the sign that says, "Visitors are welcome." But if someone walks in and is not dressed up or not well dressed or some other thing, we shun them a little bit and it's really a problem.

Hank Smith: 11:52 Yeah. I think the Lord might say the same thing, "Don't cast out anyone from your public meetings." And we can cast them out maybe not by picking up and tossing them out, but by the way we behave.

Ron Bartholomew: 12:02 -Treat them.

Hank Smith: 12:03 Yeah, by the way we treat them.

Ron Bartholomew: 12:04 The way we treat them and we talk or don't talk to them, sit or don't sit by them, don't welcome them, it's really a problem.

Hank Smith: 12:11 Yeah. The Church is not the temple. You don't need a temple recommend to come to Church.

Ron Bartholomew: 12:15 No, in fact you don't need anything to go to Church, you just need to come.

John Bytheway: 12:19 -just come.

Ron Bartholomew: 12:20 So after telling them to invite everyone to the meetings, the Lord says in verse seven and eight, He commands and that they should do all things with praise and thanksgiving, that we should just pray to the Spirit who judges the devils, cry as man and these two presents this idea of them being deceived by the devil. And that's where we really want to avoid. And so really the context for this revelation on the gifts of the Spirit is to teach them how to avoid being deceived.

Hank Smith: 12:51 Okay. So that's what leads to this next part, which is what Section 46 is pretty much known for, is not being deceived, seduced by evil spirits, or doctrines of devils, or the commandments of men. And so there's that beware right there in verse eight.

Ron Bartholomew: 13:07 Yes. Beware that you're not deceived; and that ye may not be deceived, seek ye earnestly the best gifts. So the reason that they're given the gifts is to not be deceived

Hank Smith: 13:17 Very good. And they're a new Church. I would imagine that where we are today, we've got pretty solid footing in a lot of these things. But being brand new, I mean, yet there's still not a year old, they might not have the anchors we have to know what's from the Lord and what's not.

Ron Bartholomew: 13:38 That's right.

Hank Smith: 13:39 When we talk about the burned over district of where Joseph Smith grew up, I mean, would it be fair to say there's just still a great feeling of revival going on and people getting excited about things. And I've wondered if the gift of tongues isn't one of those that the Lord wanted to address right away.

Ron Bartholomew: 13:57 Probably the saints were interested in getting all these extra gifts and not so much the solid gifts. And so I think part of the reason for Section 46 is to teach the saints, "No, settle down. Let's seek after the things that will really make a difference in the end."

John Bytheway: 14:14 I liked that settled down.

Ron Bartholomew: 14:17 Yeah.

Hank Smith: 14:17 Yeah.

Ron Bartholomew: 14:18 I think that's really part of the problem.

Hank Smith: 14:21 Yeah. They're a little too much, a little too excited, which for a young church, you would think that's probably a good problem to have rather than trying to get you to light a fire under view. The idea is like, "Okay. Okay, this is good. This is good. Everyone let's set up some boundaries."

Ron Bartholomew: 14:37 So it's really nice as the Lord starts right off with the primary gift, which is knowing him, knowing that he lives. That's the first gift that he mentions.

John Bytheway:	<u>14:47</u>	That's a verse?
Ron Bartholomew:	<u>14:48</u>	13 and 14.
John Bytheway:	<u>14:50</u>	13 and 14. Okay.
Ron Bartholomew:	<u>14:51</u>	Yeah. To someone who's given by the Holy Ghost to know that Jesus Christ is the son of God, he was crucified for the sins where that's the first gift he mentions, and toward the gift given to believe in their words that they may also have eternal life and they could be faithful. And so I think the Lord wanted them to understand that the first gift, the most important gift is knowing that he is the son of God and that he is the Redeemer of the world. That's the best place to start.
Hank Smith:	<u>15:14</u>	Ron, as I've talked to people who go through difficulties with doubt and faith, you're going to have faith crises and things. Oftentimes, I first remind them, "Do you believe in Christ?" Right? Let's get centered here on something, because if we're not centered there with this first gift that you said, this is what he lists very first, we can build off of that. Right? We can build off of that. I think in this recent [General]Conference, President Nelson was kind of saying that same thing, right? "It was, "Focus your faith on Christ, build your faith on Christ." And I think more and more we're realizing the Book of Mormon's idea of a firm foundation of faith to build on is this very first gift.
Ron Bartholomew:	<u>16:00</u>	I agree.
Hank Smith:	<u>16:01</u>	Elder Lawrence Corbridge gave a terrific talk at BYU called "Stand Forever." I want to say 2019, he talked about distinguishing primary questions from secondary questions, and it's just a really great to talk. You can just go to speeches.byu.edu and find it. But I have my students read that for extra credit. I want them to notice there are millions of questions and they're good questions, but make sure you focus on the primary questions first. And that's definitely one of those verse 13.
Ron Bartholomew:	<u>16:34</u>	It reminds me of what Alma said. I think it was to the people of Gideon. If I remember right, he in Alma 7, is that who's he speaking to people of Gideon and he says this is Alma 7:7 "Behold, there is one thing which is of more importance than they all, right?" There is one thing that is more important than all the other questions. "And that is the time is not far distant that the Redeemer liveth and cometh among his people." So to tie in here, section 46, verse 13, the Lord is saying, "Okay, that's-

Hank Smith: 17:06 -That's the one thing, we're going to start with gifts right here is the gift to know that Jesus Christ is the son of God, and that he was crucified for the sins of the world. And then 14 is an interesting addition to that. Don't you think?

Ron Bartholomew: 17:21 I think it is. I think it's probably one of the least said verses in the scriptures. Verse 14 teaches, "Gifts given to believe in their words, they may have eternal life and if they continue faithful." I don't think everyone's supposed to have this magnificent witness of Christ, like the past seven. I think we're just supposed to believe their words. And I think that's the important thing that will lead us to eternal life.

Hank Smith: 17:45 John you've talked to me about this before. What do you think about this verse? Because you were saying, we've got to make sure we understand this because some people might end up in a little bit of a nervous wreck about their testimony.

John Bytheway: 17:57 Yeah. They may think they have to have the first gift. And I think we all want that, but to be able to believe on someone's words, I think a beautiful example of that is as we go through the Book of Mormon, Lehi has a testimony. I mean, look at this family as they start, Lehi has a vision, has a testimony. Nephi kneels down, "I need to know, is my father leading us?" Right. Nephi gets his answer, and then he just tells Sam, his older brother and Sam just believes him. And when I see those two, I think that's Nephi, that's Sam and Sam was strong, but he just believed Nephi, when Nephi told him.

Ron Bartholomew: 18:37 And he just believed him.

John Bytheway: 18:37 Yeah.

Ron Bartholomew: 18:37 That's wonderful.

John Bytheway: 18:40 And he had the gift to believe Nephi, you're right. And it's fun to watch the others. Sariah sees her sons come back, escaping the dangers of Laban and says, "Now I know that the Lord hath commanded my husband to flee into the wilderness," and it's fun to watch the family and then sadly, those that never really seemed to ask in the same way. The thing I was talking about with Hank was, we know that we were told not to rely on borrowed light but I've always wondered this is a spiritual gift. Is this borrowed light or is this a spiritual gift? Doesn't seem like borrowed light to me. So I'd love to know what you think about that because for many of us, we listen, we watch General

Conference and we believe what we're being taught, and that's a gift.

- Ron Bartholomew: 19:35 Not only is that a gift, that's the gift that the vast majority of the members of the Church have and to live on borrowed light, so to speak is, I think a misnomer in that as long as you're depending upon another person's testimony, that's legitimate, that's as good as it gets. And I haven't seen God. I don't know that He lives personally, but I should certainly believe the Apostles and Prophets, my whole life, I believe them. And I believe my testimony is as strong as theirs, even though I'd say it comes from a different source.
- Hank Smith: 20:06 Oh, thank you. I'm thinking of 2013 Elder Jeffrey R. Holland, the talk "Lord, I Believe."
- Ron Bartholomew: 20:14 Yes.
- Hank Smith: 20:14 And how you always start with what you know, "Lord, I believe help their mind unbelief," but remember the story of the boy that came up to him and said, "Well, I don't know if the Church is true, but I believe it is." And Elder Holland said, "I hugged that boy until his eyes bulged out." And I reminded him that our Articles of Faith all start with, "I believe," don't ever be embarrassed that you only believe he said, and I got a beautiful talk and I'm thankful that gift is listed in verse 14.
- Ron Bartholomew: 20:44 It's the gift most of the members of Church have, or at least they're entitled to. And I have it and I'm still a great force.
- Hank Smith: 20:53 I would say John, that the idea of borrowed light is like, "Well, I'm not going to do anything. My parents read the scriptures. Everyone reads the scriptures, everyone prays. I'll just rely on them. They can say their prayers, they can read them and I'll just do my thing. And then when it comes time, major spiritual problems, I'll be fine." And you can't do that. You got to do the work, right? You've got to pray. You've got to be reading. You've got to be trying to get close to the Spirit living on borrowed light might be the idea of, "I'm not going to do the work."
- John Bytheway: 21:29 Yeah. Kind of I want something for nothing maybe. I like where we're going here. Those aren't the same thing, believing on the words of others and borrowed light. That's not the same thing.
- Ron Bartholomew: 21:41 It's not the same thing.

John Bytheway: 21:43 I would say to, to anyone listening who says it's, I believe like Ron said, "I believe in the words of the Apostles and Prophets, I believe the scriptures." And if anybody challenges that like, "Oh, you just believe?" As if that's something like a step-down from a testimony, that's not a step down from a testimony. I think the Lord is clear here in Section 46, that is a gift of the spirit. So if you say, "You know what? I do believe." Then you're acknowledging that you have a gift of the spirit and it's a beautiful thing. It's not a weakness. And I'm reminded of the verse, "Doubt not but be believing." we're told to be believing.

Hank Smith: 22:26 Let's get going here. Ron can take us through the gifts of the spirit.

Ron Bartholomew: 22:29 Okay, let's do it. The next gift, so then the Lord starts to listen to gifts. He talks, he talks about to know the differences of administration as it was, we proceed to the same Lord, even as the Lord will show his mercy, "According to the conditions," this is a difficult language for many people. Let me see if I can help you with understanding just a little better.

Hank Smith: 22:48 Okay.

Ron Bartholomew: 22:49 Elder Orson Pratt said the following, I know he lived a long time ago, but this was really profound. He said, quote, "Whenever the Holy Ghost takes up its residence in a person, it not only cleanses, sanctifies, and purifies him, in proportion as he yields himself to its influence, but also imports to him some gift, intended for the benefit of himself and others. No one who has been born of the Spirit, and who remains sufficiently faithful, is left destitute of a spiritual gift."

So even if we don't understand what all the gifts are, we can still know that we have them. "A person who is without a spiritual gift has not the spirit of God dwelling in him, in a sufficient degree, to save him." And so I think the most important thing in these verses that we're reading is that all the power thereby, we're giving them so they can bless other people. They are given so that we can bless others not to bless ourselves. And that's the important thing to in all of this, is that we were given these gifts so that we can bless other people, not just for ourselves.

I think verse 15 means this, it's the ability to understand Church government and the different functions and roles of the emphasis of the Church. That's what it's really talked a lot about and understand where you fit in Church government. There's a

fraction of the roles in the offices of the Church. I think that's what verse 15 is about.

- Hank Smith: [24:14](#) I love that because I have noticed that in other people, not in me in any way, shape or form, but I have had Church leaders, both men and women who seem to just get the workings of how the Church is supposed to work. Right? And it just flows for them. They understand it and I'm going, "What?" I like to teach, just stick me in a room and let me teach versus ask me to run a program and I'm going to have to earn that spiritual gift, because John was a Bishop and it amazed me that he could run... A person can run a board, that amazes me because I don't have that gift. Did that come to you, John? Ron, I don't know if you've been Bishop as well or just a President. And that's got to be a daunting feeling, but yet maybe we can have confidence and the Lord can give you the gift of understanding how the Church is supposed to work.
- John Bytheway: [25:17](#) I'll tell you right now, I was inspired to call counselors that had gifts that were different than mine, that were detail. . . . administrative. And I was so blessed by that because I knew where I didn't have gifts and where I did. And I'm sure my Ward could tell you where I didn't, but it was so nice to have that. And I love what Ron said, and I think it's addressed there in verse 12, "That all may be profited thereby." All of the gifts come under this line, that they're for the profit of everybody.
- Ron Bartholomew: [25:17](#) Of others.
- John Bytheway: [25:56](#) It's for a blessing of the whole Church, not just for some individual to have this gift and all of it comes under that heading. I think that's important
- Ron Bartholomew: [26:08](#) When I was the Bishop, I literally received this gift, the gift verse 15. And when I was released, I lost it and I could feel it come and I could feel it go. And so I know that it's a real thing.
- John Bytheway: [26:19](#) I wanted to add, if you don't mind, Section 46 has a list of spiritual gifts but so does Moroni 10, when we think of Moroni 10, we think, "Oh, Moroni is promise but it starts with after Moroni's promise," but it has spiritual gifts. And one of the things that helped me understand the phrase, "The differences of administration," in verse 15, there is Moroni 10:8. "And again, I exhort you my brother and did you deny not the gifts of God for they are many and they come from the same God, and there are different ways that these gifts are administered."

Now those are the same words just turned around a little bit, the different ways that the gifts are administered. "Oh, okay. I think then I know what the differences of administration means when I look at those two verses together, it's footnoted there, you'll see that down there. Moroni 10:8 and that's helpful to put those two lists of gifts side-by-side and see what you can gain from looking at both of them.

Ron Bartholomew: 27:18

I think, another important thing to do is realize that not everyone has all the gifts. It's important for us to recognize that people have other gifts and we have different gifts than they do. And we can benefit by all being together in a ward or a stake so that we can have to agree with not all having all the gifts. Sometimes we see people in the Church try to stand up and say, "Oh, wait a minute. I've got all the gifts," but that's a very much a pride approach and it's a wrong approach. And the more humble approaches, the approach of, "Well, I think I may have this gift but I am sure you have these other gifts. And so I want to hang out with you just so I, again, can benefit from the other gifts, the way that the Lord has blessed me to do."

Hank Smith: 28:00

I love this because I think one thing this can do well, two things actually that I'm thinking that this can do is one, it can help us with our self-confidence, because we don't need to start comparing ourselves to everybody else. I can't teach so-and-so, I can't work with the kids like she can. And the other thing it can do is teach us to be more of a choir, right? Be more of a symphony together and realize that we're one of the major purposes, I guess, of us getting together so often is so we can all benefit from each other's gifts.

Ron Bartholomew: 28:37

I think in addition to those two things, which are absolutely critical, I think the third thing is to realize that when you receive certain callings, a gift comes with the calling, when you're released then you lose the gift. So it's important for us to realize that when we receive a calling, we're going to receive a gift we haven't had before. And that's only there so he can bless other people with it. And so I think as we realize that we're part of this mix that you're described to Hank, but also that each client comes with a separate set of gifts. We can bless the world that way. I think that's important too.

Hank Smith: 29:09

Ron, I really like this because people can then accept a calling with confidence.

Ron Bartholomew: 29:14

Yes.

Hank Smith: 29:15

Knowing that the Lord's going to give them a gift.

John Bytheway: 29:18 "Whom the Lord calls, the Lord qualifies." Is that right?

Ron Bartholomew: 29:21 It was President Monson.

John Bytheway: 29:22 President Monson. Yeah. And I was thinking as Hank was talking about a choir, Hank, you've heard me use this marriage seminars over and over but harmony is being different together. And it's so great to have some basis and some Tenors and some Baritones and some Sopranos and some Altos and all together, it makes it beautiful.

Hank Smith: 29:45 I would add too that sometimes there's not the jealousy of other people's gifts, but we don't like other people's gifts. Right? "They're not like me, therefore, they shouldn't be working with the youth. Therefore, they shouldn't be Bishop." I don't think like them, I've noticed that sometimes in the Church especially if we become super Orthodox, we want to make sure everybody fits a certain mold. Right? And maybe as we approached the Third Century of the Church, we could hopefully break out of that a little bit and let other people-

Ron Bartholomew: 30:22 You should. So I think it's also important to realize that the Lord is the one who decides who has what gift, people don't get gifts themselves, they receive gifts in the Lord. And so by recognizing the Lord is the founder of the source of all the gifts helps us have respect for the people and also appreciate working with them.

John Bytheway: 30:40 Yeah. That back in 2003, I think I was on a writing committee for Young Men/Young Women manuals. I was with Matt Richardson as matter of fact, that you both know. And one of the things they told us that just made me go, "Whoa!" Is that the majority of people who would be using these would be new converts, who would be teaching from these manuals would have been members for less than two years. And I thought, "Isn't that fascinating?" And there we go back to that idea of, we better make sure the primary doctrines are getting out there because somebody might get a manual and think like this is all the basic stuff, I want to go out somewhere else, out on the periphery or something. And it's another emphasis on primary doctors there. And these people who are teachers were just learning the gospel themselves which was sobering and kind of a humbling thing to think about.

Hank Smith: 31:41 I've had and I hate to admit this because I admit something I do wrong every episode, John. But there have been times in my life where I've had an Elders Quorum President or a Bishop or a Young Men's President when we used to have those and I

thought that's not the guy I would choose. Right? That's not the guy that I think could do the best job. And I think that's part of don't cast anyone out because you don't like them, because they have a spiritual gift according to Section 46.

John Bytheway: 32:18

Or the Lord has something in mind. One of the stories I love to tell Hank, you've heard me is at being at 17 year old [crosstalk 00:32:27] and being called to be, and this is a phrase that some of you won't even know, Junior Sunday School Chorister it would now be the equivalent of Primary Chorister

Hank Smith: 32:37

At 17?

John Bytheway: 32:38

At 17 and I looked right at the Bishop and said, "I'm a boy." And I had one younger sister, but I didn't know how to do little kids. I do now because I've had my own but I was terrible at this. And all of the other Junior Sunday School teachers were looking at each other like, "Who called him?" And I was really bad. My mom was face palming in the back on my first week. And we got home and she had been a Kindergarten teacher. She would have been a thousand times better than I was. And she pulled me aside, taught me all these things about how to deal with the kids and how to have them stand up and do an activity song when they got fidgety, whatever.

Well, long story short, I learned a lot from my mom. I did the best I could, but this is the point, years later, I'm on a mission in the Philippines. We opened an area and the first we're meeting in our house because we didn't have a church [building], we opened this area but other branches from around were a little bit closer to this one. Anyway, 35 people came to our first meeting. And as I'm sitting there, I noticed that most of them were children and I thought, "I know exactly what to do. I know exactly what to do." And I taught them songs. I led like this, instead of like this, everything my mom taught me.

I made a poster. I mean, all day I was like, "I can't believe this. I know exactly what to do." I don't remember how many weeks I was handling the kids in primary and teaching them songs, "Jesus came to John, the Baptist." I didn't have a Sing With Me-- the song book. they used to call it but they were all in my head. I mean, I still marvel. You can just tell me telling about it, I still marvel that, "Okay. Bishop Seager, you nailed it. Thank you, because we wouldn't have known what to do at that point."

Ron Bartholomew: 34:41

That's a beautiful story. I love that story.

John Bytheway: 34:44 And it's really fun to tell because I joke about all the funny things with little kids but I thought, "Okay, no one in the ward would have said that was the right guy for the job." A Priest? You don't have a 17 year old boy who worries about being cool in front of the other Priests, try to lead that children and songs. It was, "Ah!" And I didn't feel cool. I promise.

Hank Smith: 35:05 But the Lord, I like what you said there, that you don't second guess these callings.

John Bytheway: 35:11 Yeah, you may think, "'Who called him?" Well, maybe Bishop Seager knew what was going on and I believe he did. And I'm really grateful because I had a blast with those wonderful little Filipino kids over there on my mission.

Hank Smith: 35:27 That's wonderful.

John Bytheway: 35:28 You got a wonder, John, if Bishop Seager's going, "Really?" [crosstalk 00:35:34] Oh, I know. When I tell this story, I always say, "Bishop, I'm a boy." And I always say that the Bishop said, "Look, you aren't my first choice either buster, now get in there and do it."

Hank Smith: 35:28 That's fantastic.

Ron Bartholomew: 35:48 That's good. The next verse, the next gift is also a little bit difficult to understand. "And again, it is given by the Holy Ghost to some to know the diversities of operations, whether they be of God, that the manifestations of the Spirit may be given to every man to profit withal". I think the best way to explain this is the gift to discern between God and the Devil, and that's to avoid deception. And I think that's a gift that everybody can have to know what you got in the Devil and avoid deception that way.

Hank Smith: 36:15 How do you think that gift is manifest in someone or in just your opinion, how has it been manifest in you to know if something is good or evil?

Ron Bartholomew: 36:23 I think it has a lot to do with how you feel with feelings. I think if you're in tune with the Spirit, you know if something's not right or not. And I think that gift is one that I think I've been given because I've been able to help a lot of people know that they're seeing good or evil, but I think some people don't have that gift and they need help from people who do.

Hank Smith: 36:44 Yeah. I married someone with that gift and I'll be gung ho for something. And she'll say something like, "Well, I don't know. It just doesn't feel right to me." And I'm going, "Y'all know, you got to be excited. Here we go. We're going to move forward." And then lo and behold, I find out she was right all along. I can't tell you how many times that's happened. We've had, let's see, we've had 21 anniversaries. It's probably happened at least 21 times where I was all for something, ready to move forward and she's just going, "I don't feel it." And it took me a while to figure out she has a gift that I don't.

Ron Bartholomew: 36:44 She has a gift. Yes.

John Bytheway: 37:17 I just don't want to go past verse 15. I just think this phrase is so helpful. The last phrase, in verse 15, "Suiting his mercies according to the conditions of the children of men." A teenager growing up pre-internet is in a different place than a teenager growing up in 2021.

Ron Bartholomew: 37:38 That's for sure.

John Bytheway: 37:39 And the Lord adjusts his mercies according to our conditions. And I'm grateful for that verse. I've used that a lot in counseling and letting us know, "Hey, the Lord knows the kind of world he sent us into." And He knows exactly the kind of world he sent us into. And he knows that my Church, when I got my mission call from President Kimball with 3 million members is a little different than the one today with 16 million and the technology technological boom, and everything. And so I'm grateful that mercies are suited according to a different world that we've been sent into.

Ron Bartholomew: 38:18 Thank you for bringing that up, John. I really appreciate that a lot. That's very helpful.

Hank Smith: 38:22 Yeah, John, I was going to say that's a life-changing thing for parents to realize that your kids are growing up in a different time and the Lord adjusts his mercies towards them.

Ron Bartholomew: 38:36 That's beautiful.

Hank Smith: 38:38 Yeah, because there's some things that teenagers face today that they get involved in, that wasn't even on close to our radar.

John Bytheway: 38:48 You're right.

Hank Smith: 38:50 It wouldn't even have been an option. Right?

Ron Bartholomew: 38:53 Yeah.

Hank Smith: 38:54 And the idea that the Lord knows what he's doing, that to me, John, I think that's a life-changing-

John Bytheway: 39:03 Oh, I love that verse. And Ron, it's funny because when we were teaching EFY For the Strength of Youth was 19 pages long. The one published in 1990, and I like to show the youth that today's is 46 pages and it addresses things that hadn't even been invented.

Ron Bartholomew: 39:24 -didn't even exist.

John Bytheway: 39:25 Yeah. I have a 1965 For The Strength of Youth, I found at DI, where it's just amazing how different this world is now. So I'm grateful the Lord adjusts his mercies, suiting his mercy. I love that verse.

Ron Bartholomew: 39:44 According to the children of men, that's so good. Okay, verse 17 and 18, they kind of play against each other. Verse 17 says, "Is given to some, the spirit of God to know the word of wisdom," 18 says, "That others are given the word of knowledge that we tend to be wise and to have knowledge." I think there's a real key. The difference between wisdom and knowledge in the Church, and somebody will have a lot of knowledge and some people have wisdom. I think the key is in verse 17, where it says wisdom is given by the Spirit of God. And I think that that's just something that we have to recognize.

John Bytheway: 40:20 The difference between wisdom and knowledge, because most people are going to read this, Ron, and think Word of Wisdom, Section 89, but that's not-

Ron Bartholomew: 40:27 -no, that's not-

John Bytheway: 40:28 -that's not at all right. There's no Word of Wisdom at this point in the Church there.

Ron Bartholomew: 40:34 There is no Word of wisdom.

Hank Smith: 40:35 So the idea of the Word of wisdom is being wise, right?

Ron Bartholomew: 40:38 Being wise, Mm-hmm (affirmative)-

John Bytheway: 40:39 Yeah. Right there, the word of wisdom is just a phrase like, "Here's a word to the wise." And it became a proper name for a

Section and for a doctrine later on. I really liked this. There's a difference between wisdom and knowledge.

- Ron Bartholomew: [40:54](#) There's a huge difference, some members of the Church have knowledge and they have knowledge by the way they talk in church, nor the answer questions things. Other members of the Church by the spirit of God have the word of wisdom. And that is a different gift.
- John Bytheway: [41:07](#) I love to tell the youth, "Listen, if any of you lack information, sure, ask of Google. But if you lack wisdom, that is an entirely different question and maybe knowledge is true knowledge here. A Google will answer you something and there's a chance it might even be true, but knowledge, true knowledge and then wisdom, some people have never been to school, but are very wise. I love-
- Ron Bartholomew: [41:34](#) In verse 18 says, "to another is given the word of knowledge, that all may be taught to be wise and to have knowledge." So wisdom is mentioned in both verses.
- John Bytheway: [41:42](#) Oh, I love that. "Wise to have knowledge," reminds me a little bit of Sidney Rigdon versus Joseph Smith. Sidney had a lot of knowledge and he was a benefit to the Church.
- Hank Smith: [41:54](#) Yes.
- John Bytheway: [41:54](#) Joseph seems from the Spirit, to be getting a lot of wisdom.
- Ron Bartholomew: [42:00](#) Yes.
- Hank Smith: [42:01](#) I think I put wisdom with good judgment sometimes.
- John Bytheway: [42:05](#) Yeah.
- Ron Bartholomew: [42:06](#) We're going to see this play out in the next Section, which we haven't gotten to yet, but there's a lot of people in the Church this time who have a lot of knowledge, but so many have left the Church because they don't have wisdom. All of the cadre, the women, brothers, et cetera. And I think that having wisdom is really important if you try to be wise and to have knowledge is important if you're wise first.
- Hank Smith: [42:28](#) Man, Ron, that again, another life-changing idea here, I think is okay saying, "Which one do I have? And which one do others have?" And I need to be informed by them . . . in them, whatever, if they're more wise because I'm a big information

guy. I love to read. I love to gather information. I know, Ron, you are too. Ron, you can tell me dates and names of people in Church History that I'm going, "How do you even know that?" Right? But that's not wisdom.

- Ron Bartholomew: [43:01](#) That's not wisdom.
- John Bytheway: [43:02](#) I think wisdom is judgment. It's good judgment. And as you said, Ron, wisdom that is fed by and informed by the Holy Ghost, wow! That's the greatest kind.
- Ron Bartholomew: [43:15](#) That's the kind of wise wisdom we need to have. I look around in the weather we live in now and there's so many people that claim to have knowledge and they come to my house, they call me on the phone, they say, "I'm leaving the Church for this reason. I'm leaving the Church. I've got wisdom, I've got knowledge." But they have no wisdom, and we've got to figure out a way to help the members of the Church go back to wisdom and not just knowledge, so that they'll stay faithful from the Church and realize that God is the author of wisdom, not just knowledge.
- John Bytheway: [43:41](#) Man. Where is it in second Nephi, "When they are learned, they think they are wise." 2nd Nephi 9, is one of those, I call-
- Ron Bartholomew: [43:55](#) It's 28 and 29.
- John Bytheway: [43:55](#) I call it the "Oh's and Wo's Chapter" "because there's a whole bunch of, "Oh the goodness of our God! Oh the greatness of our God! Oh the plan of God!" And then there's a bunch of wo's.
- Ron Bartholomew: [44:02](#) Oh, I'm going to write Section 46 next to this verse because there's a difference when they are learned, they think they are wise. They think that's the same thing and it is not the same thing.
- John Bytheway: [44:15](#) Man. I think I've learned too that having a worldly degree or something, "And to be learned is good, if they harken--"
- Ron Bartholomew: [44:24](#) It's good if, if, if.
- John Bytheway: [44:24](#) Big if.
- Ron Bartholomew: [44:26](#) Yeah. Big if.
- Hank Smith: [44:29](#) Man, Ron, that's beautiful.

Ron Bartholomew: 44:31

Thank you.

Hank Smith: 44:34

Please join us for Part II of this podcast.

EPISODE 19 • PART II

Dr. Ronald E. Bartholomew



D&C 46-48

- Hank Smith: 00:02 Welcome to Part II of this week's podcast.
- Dr. Ronald E. B...: 00:07 The next several verses are very short, but they talk about the different gifts. "Some have been given the faith to be healed. Some as having the faith to heal. Some are given the working of miracles. Some of us the gift of prophecy, some the discerning of spirits. Some of us given the gift to speak with tongues, some to interpret tongues." And then it says this, in verse 26. "All these gifts come from God for the benefit of the children of God." I think that it's important to recognize if you have one of those gifts, the faith to heal, the faith to be healed, working miracles, prophecies, spirits, et cetera, I think it's important to realize that those gifts come from God for the benefit of the children of God. They come from God for the benefit of others, not for yourself.
- And you can lose those gifts just as quickly as you can receive them by showing off, by somehow drawing attention to yourself instead of showing that the gift came from God for the benefit of the children of God.
- Hank Smith: 00:59 I have noticed as a teacher myself there's a big difference between the lessons when I think, "I'm going to show everybody how much I know," versus, "How can I bless the lives of the people in this room right now?" Big difference between those two lessons. I usually walk away if I'm trying to impress, deflated. If I'm trying to bless, I walk away excited, and it's not about me. That's the time where I go, "Oh."
- Dr. Ronald E. B...: 01:29 That's the key. It has to not be about you. It has to be about the people that you're trying to bless. That's what it has to be about.
- John Bytheway: 01:35 That's a good phrase, Hank: "To impress or to Bless."
- Hank Smith: 01:39 -fall victim to these things, and we can just do a check. Just stop and go, "Wait, wait, wait, what? What is my goal here? What's my motive using this gift?"

Dr. Ronald E. B...:	<u>01:49</u>	Your motive has to be to benefit the children of God. It has to be to bless God's children, that has to be the motivation.
Hank Smith:	<u>01:58</u>	Do you think, Ron, when the Lord is listing here 19, 20, 21, 22, all these different gifts, I wonder if he's saying there's lots. He's not going to give an exhaustive list.
Dr. Ronald E. B...:	<u>02:09</u>	Oh, yeah.
Hank Smith:	<u>02:09</u>	And we're saying that's all.
Dr. Ronald E. B...:	<u>02:10</u>	Yeah. Are you familiar with Elder Ashton's talk about the gifts of the spirit?
Hank Smith:	<u>02:16</u>	Now, that was back in the 1900's right?
Dr. Ronald E. B...:	<u>02:18</u>	It was.
Hank Smith:	<u>02:19</u>	So you'll have to remind some of our listeners.
Dr. Ronald E. B...:	<u>02:22</u>	Marvin J Ashton, who was a member of the Twelve Apostles back then, gave a talk where he says, "This is not all the gifts. This is some 30 more gifts that are gifts that we can give other people."
Hank Smith:	<u>02:33</u>	Wow.
Dr. Ronald E. B...:	<u>02:33</u>	Again, we have to give other people the gifts. They are not for ourselves. They are for others, to bless and help them. His point was this list is not comprehensive. It's just the skeleton, really. But we can bless the people in many different ways if we just look for ways to bless them, and that's the whole point. The point is we have to look for ways to bless them. We have to look for ways to benefit the children of God.
John Bytheway:	<u>02:58</u>	I see it three times. I see it in verse 12, "that all may be profited thereby." I see it at the end of verse 16, "that the spirit may be given to every man to profit with all." And I see it in verse 26 "All these gifts come from God for the benefit of the children of God."
Dr. Ronald E. B...:	<u>03:14</u>	For the benefit, yeah.
John Bytheway:	<u>03:14</u>	Really, trying to emphasize that these aren't for your own individual aggrandizement. This is to bless everybody.

Dr. Ronald E. B...:	<u>03:23</u>	This is just to bless. That's what they're for. They're to bless people.
John Bytheway:	<u>03:27</u>	Three different times. I also see in verse 27 where Bishops are specifically blessed with the gifts of discernment, which is helpful. I mean, what's one of the titles of Bishop? A judge in Israel.
Hank Smith:	<u>03:38</u>	Judge of Israel, yeah.
Dr. Ronald E. B...:	<u>03:40</u>	I also think it's important to point out in verse 29 that the person is the head of the Church, the President of the Church, has every gift. President Nelson has definitely displayed the many gifts that he's received since he's become the President of the church. And I think that's a humbling thing for all of us to recognize and to receive and to realize that he has all these gifts.
Hank Smith:	<u>04:00</u>	Oh, Ron, I'm glad you brought this up. I want to make two points. Let's go back to 27. John, how would you describe the Bishop having the gift of discernment; yet, Bishops aren't perfect? They're going to make mistakes. We can't have the expectation that the Bishop is going to know everything that's happening, and he's going to call the right person to every calling. We can't have that expectation. I think maybe he has the gift, and it's up to each of us, and it's up to the Bishop, too, to be his best. Is that the message I should get?
John Bytheway:	<u>04:38</u>	Well, Ron can speak to this, too, but I just remember how incredibly humbling and inadequate you felt when you had to make really big decisions about individuals, maybe in a membership council or something. I remember one time knowing a membership council was coming and spending all night, almost, hearing the words of the song, "Who am I to judge another when I walk imperfectly." It's not any job anybody would want, really. But I also remember getting impressions that are not what I would've thought. I have a testimony that I got help in those times and discerned things I would not have discerned. I can say it for sure. I'd love to hear what Ron has to say, also having had that calling.
Dr. Ronald E. B...:	<u>05:34</u>	I remember two different times. For some reason, these two experiences come to mind. I hope it's okay if I share them. The first one is that I called a young lady to be the Relief Society President. And she cried and cried and cried. She cried so loud in my office, the people out in the hall could hear her. But she ended up being the best Relief Society President I'd ever called.

I remember another was a woman that I called to be the Relief Society President, and she was planning to move. Her and her husband had bought a... You should see where they live. They live in a multi-million dollar house up on a bench. And she purchased this house. And I called her to be the Relief Society President because I didn't know she was planning on moving. And she accepted the call and also was one of the best ever. So I think Heavenly Father knows who has those gifts, even if the people don't know that they have them. Heavenly Father knows that they have them. And he blesses them to rise up to the occasion to the offices that they're called to. And those are two marvelous experiences for me.

- Hank Smith: 06:33 That's beautiful. We've just got to watch where we place our line because sometimes we expect Church leaders to have the gift of discernment to the point where they should also be able to pick all the numbers of the lottery. They should never get sick. We're all of the sudden having expectations of them that the Lord doesn't... The Lord never says that they're going to know everything, that they're going to make every decision correctly. Because sometimes, you call someone to a calling, and then something happens, and people will blame... They'll say, well, why didn't that Stake President have enough discernment?
- John Bytheway: 07:07 Yeah, the First Principle of the gospel is not the perfection of your Bishop. It goes right back to first principles. I love Elder Holland's statement: "All the Lord has ever had to work with is imperfect people. It must be incredibly frustrating to Him. But He deals with it."
- Hank Smith: 07:26 But he deals with it.
- John Bytheway: 07:28 And then the best part: "And so should we." We can suit our mercies according to the conditions of others. The way the Lord is being merciful to us. That's reciprocity right there. I certainly hope my ward is merciful to me.
- Dr. Ronald E. B...: 07:44 I hope I don't sound wrong here. I agree with everything you said, but I also believe that verse 27, I believe the Lord does inspire the Bishop to know who has what gifts, and so you make the callings. It's right; people have their agency. They may not choose to follow the Lord, but the Lord still gives the bishop the inspiration to have the gift or the calling. I think that we have to remember that as well.
- Hank Smith: 07:44 Yeah, right.

John Bytheway: 08:09 Yeah, I remember telling my wife when I got released that any future Bishop that I knew and decisions that they make, I would not dare to pretend to know all the things he knew about situations and things they were dealing with. I just thought I'm never going to second-guess that again because I was aware of things that were happening, and things that were confidential, and feelings, inspirations that I had, that you can't possibly know all of the things that your current Bishop might know, and is dealing with.

Dr. Ronald E. B...: 08:43 There's no way you can know.

John Bytheway: 08:43 Yeah, it helped me to be a lot more, "Hey, whatever the current Bishop says, I'm going to do what I signified I would do." This is not sustaining. This is signifying that you will sustain. And I'm going to sustain him.

Hank Smith: 09:00 I feel bad for poor Edward Partridge blazing the trail here. You get this section, and all of the sudden, here's another expectation for the Bishop, and he's got to be, "Okay." He's dealing with a lot. No handbook.

John Bytheway: 09:15 Is it fair to say that at first, the bishop was more of a temporal affairs type of calling? Bishop's Storehouse and stuff like that?

Dr. Ronald E. B...: 09:24 Yes. When the call was first given, it was. But it didn't take very long for the Bishop to become like he is today.

Hank Smith: 09:31 We still have the Presiding Bishop who deals with a lot of temporal affairs.

John Bytheway: 09:35 Temporal. Yeah.

Dr. Ronald E. B...: 09:35 Temporal. Yeah.

John Bytheway: 09:36 Presiding Bishop, yeah, it's very much temporal.

Dr. Ronald E. B...: 09:39 Bishop Partridge was definitely very much the Presiding Bishop of the Church.

John Bytheway: 09:43 Yeah, that's what I thought.

Dr. Ronald E. B...: 09:45 Not a Bishop of a Ward, yeah.

Hank Smith: 09:47 I think this is a fantastic discussion. It says in verse 28, "It shall come to pass that he that asketh in spirit shall receive in spirit." What do you think the Lord means by that?

Dr. Ronald E. B...: 09:58 Well, I think you have to ask as you're directed by the spirit. I think you can ask against the spirit, or you can ask for the spirit.

Hank Smith: 09:58 Okay.

Dr. Ronald E. B...: 10:02 I think you have to ask following the spirit, and then you'll receive in the spirit. That's what I think it means.

Hank Smith: 10:09 Yeah, so this idea of when I'm praying, I better pray for the things that the spirit is directing me to pray for, not necessarily... because I can pray for a Lamborghini every time I pray.

Dr. Ronald E. B...: 10:21 Look at verse 30, "He that ask in the spirit, ask according to the will of God, wherefore does he ask?" I think if you ask in spirit, it is then according to the will of God, and that's how you know.

Hank Smith: 10:32 Anything else in Section 46 before we move on?

Dr. Ronald E. B...: 10:35 I found this quote in the Millennial [inaudible] from George Cannon. Most people don't even know who George Cannon was. He was a member of the First Presidency. But he taught the following, quote: "If any of us are imperfect, it is our duty to pray for the gift that will make us perfect. You are not to say, 'Oh, I can't have this. It is my nature.' He is not justified in it, for the reason that God has promised to give strength to correct those things and give gifts that will eradicate them." I love that thought that we should pray for the gifts that will help us become more like Heavenly Father. I think that's a good way to end this section.

Hank Smith: 11:09 Yeah, wow. That's special. Who was it, John, that said, "Which is the most important commandment? It's the one you're struggling with."

John Bytheway: 11:16 Harold B. Lee.

Hank Smith: 11:16 Yeah.

John Bytheway: 11:18 Yeah, Harold B. Lee.

Hank Smith: 11:18 So, hey, let's pray for the gift that will help you overcome the things that are your weaknesses right now. Like President Hinckley said, "Work on the big things, and then start working on the little things as we go." Man, I love that.

John Bytheway: 11:33 I'm thinking of the phrase... and now I'm forgetting is this a Book of Mormon verse to "Seek ye earnestly the best gift." Because it's not just find out what they are, but you can seek them.

Dr. Ronald E. B...: 11:44 Yes, you should seek them earnestly.

John Bytheway: 11:46 Yeah.

Hank Smith: 11:48 Because this comes up in... is it 1 Corinthians as well?

Dr. Ronald E. B...: 11:51 Yes, it does.

Hank Smith: 11:52 Right? Chapter 12. Another place where we can talk about the gifts of the spirit. The Lord has put them all over the place. He wants us to know these things. I want to add two things. One is I wrote a book on happiness a couple of years ago. It sold dozens of copies, mostly to my mom. But I learned something. There's a man named Martin Seligman, who is doing some incredible work in positive psychology, a relatively new field. He found, I think you'll like this, relating to what we just talked about... He said, "There are three types of human happiness," he says, "One is... gives you a little bit of happiness that fades quickly. The next one lasts with more happiness, and it doesn't fade as quick. And the next one is," he said, "is one that is sustaining." This happiness is sustaining, and it lasts... It's a higher form of happiness.

So, here is number one, he just calls it pleasure. Pleasure is a form of happiness, and it quickly fades like smoke. He said, "Two, the next higher form of happiness is engagement." Now, listen to what he said engagement is, and you'll see that I think he's catching up here to Section 46. "Engagement or flow," he says, "is when you use your specific unique gifts," he calls them, "frequently." That you'll get to a point where you just... you feel engaged. People will say, "Oh, time just flew by for me." It's when you're using your gifts... He called them gifts daily.

And then, he said this, "The highest level of human happiness is meaning. Where you're not only using your gifts every day, and you're not only experiencing the small pleasures of life, but you're using your gifts to a cause that is bigger than yourself."

Dr. Ronald E. B...: 13:50 I love that.

Hank Smith: 13:51 And he is right in line here with what the Lord is saying. Use your gifts, use them as regularly as you can, and use them to benefit something that is bigger than yourself.

Dr. Ronald E. B...: 13:51 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Hank Smith: 14:04 Yeah. I thought Dr. Seligman stumbled across some beautiful ideas here that were in the Doctrine and Covenants a couple... 200 years ago, but still. I love that he found that truth.

Dr. Ronald E. B...: 14:21 Thank you for sharing that, Hank. That's wonderful.

Hank Smith: 14:23 Yeah, and then I wanted to share one other thing. And I wanted to see what you all thought about this. This is a brand-new book out by my friend Patrick Mason. It's called *Restoration*. He wrote something about spiritual gifts in here that I just wanted to share with you. I thought it was so profound. He said, "What if we were to extend the principles outlined in Section 46 to consider the ways in which God has graced not just individual women and men, but also, whole cultures and communities with special gifts to be shared for the benefit of all. When we do this, we begin to see how God has endowed various groups all over the world, including other religions with particular gifts and callings that are designed to bless the word."

Dr. Ronald E. B...: 15:10 Wow.

Hank Smith: 15:12 Yeah.

Dr. Ronald E. B...: 15:12 I love that.

Hank Smith: 15:14 I thought it was an excellent insight.

Dr. Ronald E. B...: 15:15 That's a great point.

Hank Smith: 15:17 He quotes the 1978 First Presidency statement that we've talked about here before, John, with I think it was JB Haws. The First Presidency says in 1978, "The great religious leaders of the world such as Mohammad, Confucius, Reformers, Socrates, Plato, received a portion of God's light. Truth was given to them by God to enlighten whole nations and bring a higher level of understanding to individuals."

Dr. Ronald E. B...: 15:44 That has to be true.

Hank Smith: 15:45 Yeah.

Dr. Ronald E. B...: 15:46 That has to be true.

Hank Smith: 15:46 I really thought it was a beautiful idea.

Dr. Ronald E. B...: 15:48 Yeah.

Hank Smith: 15:48 A beautiful statement that-

Dr. Ronald E. B...: 15:50 Gifts are given to everybody.

Hank Smith: 15:52 Other religions, other cultures, have gifts to offer us. I thought that was a beautiful thought.

Dr. Ronald E. B...: 15:58 And, finally, if we recognize that we have them, we're willing to receive them.

John Bytheway: 16:04 Well, we talked with Brent Top about holy envy and that idea of looking at another faith and seeing, oh, I really like that, and I'd like to incorporate that more into me personally. But that's a mind-expanding thought.

Hank Smith: 16:25 Yeah. I was impressed by that, and I was excited to share it with you. Ron, let's move onto Section 47. It's a revelation to John Whitmer. We've talked about the Whitmer family before. I don't know if we've necessarily talked about John individually. He's being called here as a Church Historian. So, what do we know about John Whitmer? What do we know about this calling?

Dr. Ronald E. B...: 16:44 Well, unfortunately, John left the Church. John was one of a kind. He was asked to replace Oliver Cowdery, who was an excellent Church Historian while he was one. He had the privilege to be the scribe for Joseph with various different settings. When he was called to be the Church Historian, he said, quote: "I would rather not do it, but observe that the will of the Lord be done. If he, the Lord, desires it, I desire that I would be a benefit to Joseph the Seer. So he will not be the church historian unless he receives a revelation from God. Joseph therefore inquired of the Lord, and the same day, in Section 46, we see Section 47. They were received the same day.

In section 47 verse 4, it says, "In as much as he is faithful," that's the problem. He began his history the day Oliver Cowdery left off June 12, 1831. He was later excommunicated for apostasy and refused to give his history to Joseph. They asked him for it, and he wouldn't give it. It eventually fell in the hands of the

Community of Christ Church, and then, of course, we ended up with it, with Joseph Smith Papers, and history writing, too.

It has 19 chapters in it. It's 83 pages long. After he was excommunicated, he added two more chapters, 15 pages, exonerating himself, replacing the blame for his excommunication on the Saints. And he died outside the Church. And so Section 47 is really a sad Section no matter how you look at it because the person was called, didn't do a good job, and what he did do, he gave to the LDS Church and died out of the faith. And so it's just really a sad story there for John Whitmer, I think.

- John Bytheway: 18:21 Yeah, me too. I have come to such a great love for some of these early Saints who sacrificed so much. Names like the Whitmers that we kind of discount, and it's just... It's not necessarily we should be judging them. It's that it's just a sad story because the Whitmers were such an important and crucial part in our beginnings, and I hate to see this falling out between the Whitmers and Joseph. And then not returning like Martin Harris returned, like Oliver Cowdery returned.
- Dr. Ronald E. B...: 18:54 John Whitmer does not return.
- John Bytheway: 18:54 Yeah.
- Dr. Ronald E. B...: 18:54 He did not return.
- John Bytheway: 18:57 I hate to see that.
- Hank Smith: 19:00 If I can kind of get a broad application from this, I just love that the Lord gave revelations to James Covil in '39, probably knowing what would happen. Here, John Whitmer, probably knowing what would happen, but gave them a glimpse of their possibilities and of their potential. And I think that's what patriarchal blessings are. The Lord doesn't just say, "No, you're not going to amount to much." But he gives you this vision of your potential and possibility, and I'm thankful that he does that. It gives you something to look up to but tells you, "You can do this. This is your capacity." It's just a broader way of looking at the whole thing, maybe.
- Dr. Ronald E. B...: 19:40 Yeah, the Whitmers were definitely a key part of the beginning of the church. And John Whitmer was the key part. He was Joseph's scribe. He was later the scribe for the whole Church. So they aren't bad people, per se. They just took wrong turns, and I think there's something we can learn from people that take

wrong turns, as well. No matter how good you get started off, if you take a wrong turn, you end up in the wrong place. And John Whitmer is an example of a person who took a wrong turn. He could've easily been one of the leaders of the church for the rest of his life, but he took a wrong turn and died in Missouri and outside the Church.

- Hank Smith: 20:15 Are there any of the Whitmers that remained faithful or came back?
- Dr. Ronald E. B...: 20:20 How sad, no.
- Hank Smith: 20:22 Not even Peter, Sr.?
- Dr. Ronald E. B...: 20:25 No. He passed away, but the ones who lived, none of them stayed faithful.
- John Bytheway: 20:31 Yeah, I was going to say a couple of them passed away in Missouri before the family leaves.
- Dr. Ronald E. B...: 20:37 Yeah.
- John Bytheway: 20:38 So you would say they died faithful in the Church.
- Dr. Ronald E. B...: 20:41 Yeah.
- John Bytheway: 20:41 I think Oliver is the only... He's an in-law, and is the only one who returns.
- Hank Smith: 20:48 Yeah, he comes back.
- Dr. Ronald E. B...: 20:48 At the end of his life, yeah.
- John Bytheway: 20:50 Yeah, at the end of his life.
- Dr. Ronald E. B...: 20:51 We can learn a lot from that, my friends. We can learn a lot from that. It's important to endure to the end no matter what happens to you. At the risk of being personal... Is it okay if I'm personal for a second?
- John Bytheway: 21:01 Please, please.
- Dr. Ronald E. B...: 21:02 I had no idea this would happen to me. I had no idea that I would fall victim to Parkinson's Disease and et cetera, but I bear my witness to you that I will never fall away. The Church is true. I'm not true. The Church is true, and I'm staying with it until the end. And I'm so grateful for the opportunity to bear my

testimony today of that because there are people who did not stick to the end, and they've left the Church. And that's really a sad thing. But we can learn lessons from them.

Hank Smith: 21:34

Thank you, Ron.

John Bytheway: 21:35

Ron, that was beautiful. Ron, I know you're a lover of history. What would you say the importance of the records we have... because just because John Whitmer leaves doesn't mean the history stops. We keep a pretty good history. How important has that history been to us now almost 200 years later.

Dr. Ronald E. B...: 21:59

Wow, that question is a long answer. I'll try to answer it as quickly as I can. One of the blessings that I've had as a member of the Church is I have had a chance to review some of the volumes of Joseph Smith Papers. One of the volumes that I had a chance to review for BYU Studies in writing for it was the volumes on the histories. We can learn as much about the histories... from sin histories, the people that wrote them, as we can from the histories themselves. Not all the histories are the same. Not all are complete. They all have problems. John Crow, for example, wrote a history; he left the Church. John Whitmer wrote history; he left the Church.

So we can learn two things: we can learn from the histories themselves. We can also learn from the people who wrote the histories, what to do and what not to do. And I think that has been a blessing to me. Just to be a short answer, for now, of the history of the Church.

Hank Smith: 22:53

Can I just ask you a personal question?

Dr. Ronald E. B...: 22:55

Sure.

Hank Smith: 22:55

Why do you love history so much? I've heard you present on some polygamous families that you presented on at one time. I've heard you present on the revelations. And I know you're a lover of history. Why do you love it so much?

Dr. Ronald E. B...: 23:13

Because there's so much we can learn from it. Those people all passed away. We can learn from their mistakes. We can learn from the good things they did. We can learn from the bad things that they did without having to do it ourselves. And so I feel like I'm a better person because of the histories that I've read and studied.

John Bytheway: 23:30 I like the Book of Mormon phrase that the plates would enlarge the memory of the people. And I think history has a way of enlarging our memory. We can learn the lessons without going through the hard part if we really try. And it can enlarge our memory and help us be wise instead of just knowledgeable.

Hank Smith: 23:53 Yeah. I'm 100 percent with you, John. The history is so important. And I've heard it said before, "If you want to be remembered, keep a journal." If you want to be remembered by anyone after you're gone, keep a journal.

Dr. Ronald E. B...: 24:07 That's a good point.

Hank Smith: 24:09 Yeah, keep a record. Keep a history. And we still have this Church Historian role, right Ron?

Dr. Ronald E. B...: 24:15 We do. The Church Historian now is always a General Authority for a good reason because it's such a critical part of the gospel, for the reason you just said. And so the General Authority who is called to be the Church Historian is always very solid and very educated and very able to do all the work. But he's also a General Authority, and I think it's important.

Hank Smith: 24:39 So the Church Historian today is Elder LeGrand Curtis, Jr. I love that this calling given in 1831 is still with us today. I just love that. I just think there's something beautiful there.

John Bytheway: 24:53 What I used to think as a kid about... because President Kimball, the President of the Church as I was a teenager, emphasized keeping a journal a lot. And I always figured that if our whole lives are going to be recorded in heaven, and the angels above us are silent note-taking, well, somebody is writing it down. Why do I have to write it down? And I can see now that putting it down yourself can bless you as you think about it, and you learn the lessons from it. And maybe you do this too, Hank, but I make my students keep a reading journal during our class because it goes into a different place in your short-term and long-term memory if you actually write down what you were learning. And you'll retain it for longer.

I was just going to mention Wilford Woodruff and how important he was as a history keeper. I guess he heard Joseph Smith say once... I remember in the movie *Mountain of the Lord*, he says, "Well, since I heard Joseph Smith say we should be a record-keeping people, I haven't been able to go to bed before I wrote down the events of the day." Does that sound familiar, Ron?

Dr. Ronald E. B...: 26:05 Yes. And Wilford Woodruff wrote many, many multiple volumes of journals.

John Bytheway: 26:10 Yeah.

Dr. Ronald E. B...: 26:12 And we can learn a lot about our History of the Church from reading his journals.

John Bytheway: 26:14 When I went to get my marriage recommend, I went to see my wife's Stake President, and his name is Wilford Bruce Woodruff.

Dr. Ronald E. B...: 26:23 Oh, wow.

John Bytheway: 26:24 And that was pretty fun because we got talking about Wilford, and he has, as a direct descendant, access to all of those journals. I think the Church keeps them, but he has access to them.

Dr. Ronald E. B...: 26:37 Yeah, that's awesome.

Hank Smith: 26:37 Wow.

John Bytheway: 26:37 And I was also going to mention my beloved State President, who set me apart to go on a mission, was George I Kennan.

Dr. Ronald E. B...: 26:46 Wow.

John Bytheway: 26:47 Who served in the Seventy after that, but he set me apart for my mission.

Dr. Ronald E. B...: 26:51 My goodness.

John Bytheway: 26:52 That was pretty cool-

Hank Smith: 26:53 Yeah, John.

John Bytheway: 26:54 To say George I Kennan set me apart. That was fun.

Hank Smith: 26:57 Did they just go through the alphabet with that? Do they just-

John Bytheway: 27:02 They got to Q then started over. Yeah, I don't know.

Hank Smith: 27:05 Go around to the [inaudible 00:27:06].

John Bytheway: 27:06 A tall, wonderful man, my Stake President.

Dr. Ronald E. B...: 27:09 Wow, that's awesome.

Hank Smith: 27:12 And there's different ways to keep a record, right? Some of us, maybe, are overwhelmed at the idea of opening up and writing down. Well, a lot of people type their journal now. And you can even record audio. You can just record audio.

Dr. Ronald E. B...: 27:23 Yeah, audio. Yeah, you can.

Hank Smith: 27:23 Video, you could record. I do this a lot with my kids where I'll say, "Oh, this is a journal moment." And I'll get my phone out, and I'll record it. Okay, what's the date today? What are we doing? And I think we're keeping a record.

John Bytheway: 27:37 And those things, I have a niece who's uploading tons of stuff of my mom and dad to the family history websites and let them house it. Let them store it. But now all these photos are up there, and like they say, a picture tells 1000 words. So history in photos is up there, which is kind of a nice thing. What is the name of that?

Hank Smith: 28:02 The app is called Family Tree. And you're exactly right. You can upload pictures, audio files to anybody's record here. I've uploaded a lot to mine. I trust that those servers are double and triple backed up.

John Bytheway: 28:21 Yeah, they're in a granite vault at Little Cottonwood Canyon, right?

Hank Smith: 28:24 I love the little point on this on my family tree where I can go to my children, and it says, "Add spouse." I'm like, oh, good. I can do this. For my daughter, I'll choose John Bytheway's son, right? It'll be perfect.

Dr. Ronald E. B...: 28:38 Oh, brother.

John Bytheway: 28:39 Ron, in Section 48, the Lord is actually talking about buying land, I think for anticipating other members that are coming.

Dr. Ronald E. B...: 28:48 Yes.

John Bytheway: 28:48 Could you tell us some things about Section 48?

Dr. Ronald E. B...: 28:51 I'd love to. Thank you so much. And, on March 9th, 1831, some members of the [inaudible 00:28:57] were able to sell their acreage, so they could relocate to Ohio, which was a happy thing for everybody. They were from Colesville, New York. On March 10th, 1831, as the time drew near for the brother from the state of New York to arrive in Ohio, there was no

preparation made for the reception of the Saints from the East. They didn't know where to put them. [inaudible 00:29:12] party being anxious to know something isn't the matter, he asked Joseph to receive the revelation, and Joseph receives Section 48.

In verses one to three, the Lord uses the phrase "present time" three times, implying that Ohio would only be a temporary Church center. Which, of course, we know for a fact that it was. In verse four, he says the city New Jerusalem, which was to be built with the sacrifice because of the Saints is not in Ohio. It's somewhere else. The Church first heard by the city from the Book of Ether in the Book of Mormon. And in two previous places, the revelation Joseph will receive, Section 28 and 42. But they're really excited to move there.

The exact location of the city had not been revealed yet, verse five. But three months later, the Lord did tell them it was in Missouri. That was the place for their gathering, and he didn't reveal the specific location as being Jackson County until they got there in January 1831. So, imagine you're a member of the Church. You've just moved from New York to Ohio only to find out that Ohio is a temporary place, and you're really moving somewhere else 1000 miles away in Missouri, which you won't find out until July.

So they move in May. They don't find out until July that they're going to be moving to Missouri. But it's a tough, tough time for the members of the church because they're going to make section 48 a quote "hallowed place, a special place, but it's a temporary place." And that's Section 48.

- Hank Smith: 30:43 Yeah, and Ohio does become a temporary place for them. I wonder if the Lord says in verse five, "The place is not yet to be revealed," and a side note, you probably would be upset with me. They're saying, oh, I hope it's not as far away as New York to Ohio. And the Lord is going-
- Dr. Ronald E. B...: 31:04 It's three times as far.
- Hank Smith: 31:06 It's a lot further.
- John Bytheway: 31:07 And, when you come into the valley, you're going to go, "This is the place?"
- Hank Smith: 31:12 Oh, you're talking about Salt Lake. Yeah. He hasn't even mentioned that one yet.

John Bytheway: 31:15 I'm talking about another one. And that's kind of sad... Look at what they had to go through when building homes and farms that other people would occupy at some point. And sometimes, having to sell them for pennies on the dollar. Who was it in Nauvoo that swept the room and then left the broom by the door?

Hank Smith: 31:37 Yeah, that's Wilford Woodruff. Yeah.

John Bytheway: 31:39 Yeah, knowing that, okay, bye. I just built this beautiful place, and now I've got to go.

Dr. Ronald E. B...: 31:45 They did a lot of moving in those first years. They did a lot of moving.

John Bytheway: 31:48 That's rough.

Dr. Ronald E. B...: 31:50 Missouri is a pretty good place, so is Nauvoo, but Salt Lake was terrible. When they first got here, it was awful. Especially for people who had lived in the East, right?

Hank Smith: 32:00 Yeah. And going this is desolate. I remember growing up in Utah thinking, "It's not a dessert. Look, we've got all these trees." And then I went east and went, "Oh, that's why they-"

John Bytheway: 32:13 I know. I felt the same way. You look down in a plane, and it's like you have to clear the land of trees to do anything. And here, you've got to plant trees, which die if you don't water them.

Dr. Ronald E. B...: 32:28 Hank, John, can I make a couple of points here, please?

Hank Smith: 32:31 Absolutely.

John Bytheway: 32:31 Please do.

Dr. Ronald E. B...: 32:34 First point is it's amazing how much the Saints do in Kirtland and realizing they were only going to be there for five years. They built the [inaudible 00:32:41] building. They build homes. They built a temple. They really worked hard the five years they were there, and they really make a difference. I think we often forget that as an important piece for them moving and now going into Salt Lake. They had a lot of practice building and leaving, building and leaving, building and leaving. And that's something that they had to have a lot of practice doing.

The second point I'd like to make, which is even more important, is if you go to Kirtland today, it's just beautiful. It's

spectacular. And it was beautiful then, too. And so think about how difficult it would be to leave these beautiful places one after another. New York, Ohio, Missouri, New York, Nauvoo-

- John Bytheway: 33:21 Nauvoo, then Nauvoo. Yeah.
- Dr. Ronald E. B...: 33:23 And then to go to Salt Lake. These people really sacrificed a lot. I think that unless you've been there, you can't appreciate how much they really had to sacrifice. So I just want to bear my testimony that I believe these Saints were really called of God. They knew how to move. They knew how to build. And that did them well when they came to Salt Lake. I bear my testimony that's true, and I say it in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.
- Hank Smith: 33:50 Amen, I love that, Ron. That is beautiful. I love this. As we're going through the Doctrine and Covenants this year... and I've taught the Doctrine and Covenants before, so I'm just coming to a new understanding of how much these men and women, these families, were called to do. And it gives me strength, and it also gives me responsibility, I feel like, to carry on the work they started. I am not going to be the one who... I don't want to be the one who falls off and doesn't build on this glorious chain they began. I feel a responsibility to my pioneer ancestors. Not even just the ones I'm related to, but these early, early ones of these early Sections.
- Dr. Ronald E. B...: 34:44 That's awesome, Hank, because I feel like there's many members of the Church today that don't feel that way. They don't understand. "The Doctrine and Covenants? What's that?" Kind of a thing. I think it's critical that we teach the people what happened so that they can appreciate the sacrifice that went before them so that they can know who they're following, whose footsteps they're following, and so they can become more like those people that they don't really know a lot about. When I teach these Sections, when I teach 47, 48 particularly, I make sure that people know that these people gave up a lot. Especially in verse 46 and 48, they gave up a lot for me to have what I have today, and I need to build on that. Instead, I need to appreciate it and be thankful for it instead of just receive it.
- Hank Smith: 35:31 Yeah, oh, Ron, that is so good because it reminds me of First Nephi chapter 1 verse 1, "I, Nephi," he could say, King of Kings. He could say, "Builder of Boats, Crosser of Oceans." He said, "I Nephi, having built upon goodly parents," I have good parents. And we could also say "I, Hank," "I, Ron," "I, John," having come from awesome pioneers.
- Dr. Ronald E. B...: 35:31 Awesome pioneers.

Hank Smith:	<u>35:56</u>	Awesome ancestors.
Dr. Ronald E. B...:	<u>35:59</u>	Awesome.
Hank Smith:	<u>35:59</u>	I have a responsibility to these people.
Dr. Ronald E. B...:	<u>36:04</u>	I was talking to the President of the Wyoming Stake that did so much of the temple work for these people relays that most of them, they moved from New York to Missouri, to Nauvoo, to Ohio, to Salt lake, without receiving the temple ordinances. And that even gives me an even greater feeling for them as I realize,"Wow, they did that without receiving the temple ordinances." Wow, we've been without the temple for a year now because it's been closed, and I just am aching to go back. But those people, they never even saw a temple in their lifetime because the temple in Salt Lake wasn't built until the St. George Temple was built in 1877. I don't know. It's just, to me, they're awesome.
Hank Smith:	<u>36:49</u>	I love, Ron, earlier when you said, "I will be in this faith." I feel that strength from them, too. As they continue forward, I continue forward, and I pass it onto the next generation.
Dr. Ronald E. B...:	<u>37:04</u>	Yeah.
John Bytheway:	<u>37:05</u>	Yeah. I was just going to say the more we've studied this together, Hank, and it's been such a privilege to be with you and these amazing guests that we have, the more my own problems and concerns have kind of diminished. And I just think, "Look what they did. Look what they were going through." And I love things like that that help me reduce a lot of my problems to kind of first-world problems.
Hank Smith:	<u>37:28</u>	It gives you perspective.
John Bytheway:	<u>37:30</u>	Yeah. And another thing I wanted to add is that I watched... I think I have watched the... I think it was the Sunday Morning Session, the "I Am a Child of God," the very international session of General Conference. I think I've watched the "I Am a Child of God" thing about 10 times. Watching these Saints from all over the world singing in their own language and seeing them as pioneers that have maybe, if not literal descendants of these pioneers. But what they're doing, and what they're sacrificing has just been... I watched it over and over. I just think, man, I love these people. I never met them, but I'd love to. And to say that... I bet they're making sacrifices to come into

a relatively new faith to them in a country where it's not well established. I just felt a lot of love for them.

- Hank Smith: 38:27 That's beautiful, John. I felt the exact same way. Right when they started, I thought, "Oh, man."
- John Bytheway: 38:33 Yeah.
- Hank Smith: 38:33 Grab the Kleenex. I'm not going to make it. Beautiful, just beautiful.
- Dr. Ronald E. B...: 38:39 These people were so poor; yet, the Lord says three times in this Section... in verse three, he says, "Buy for the present time." And then verse four, "Save all the money that you can," and then verse six, "Purchase the lands." These people were asked to sacrifice in a way that I don't think we can appreciate because we have so many things around us, so much stuff. And yet, they were asked to save, save, save, buy, buy, buy, and I just can't imagine how much they had to sacrifice. I just wanted to bear my testimony to that as well, and I say that in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.
- Hank Smith: 39:16 Yeah, that is beautiful. In my book that I quoted earlier from my friend Patrick Mason, he says, "Despite the Lord's consistent and stern warnings, we today have largely been seduced by the gods of affluence and ease."
- Dr. Ronald E. B...: 39:34 Wow.
- Hank Smith: 39:34 These early people, they were not seduced by the gods of affluence or ease. So, Ron, I have a last question for you.
- Dr. Ronald E. B...: 39:45 Please.
- Hank Smith: 39:46 You're a Gospel Scholar. You've been studying and teaching these things for... I want to say... how many years now?
- Dr. Ronald E. B...: 39:56 36 years.
- Hank Smith: 39:57 You've been studying and teaching these things for over 35 years full-time. This has been your job full-time. You know as much as there is to know about Joseph Smith and these early Saints, both their highs and their lows. You certainly know as much as any critic of the early Saints of Joseph Smith would know, yet, here you are, faithful. So I would love to hear my friend Ron's personal thoughts on Joseph Smith, the restoration, and what this has done for you personally.

Dr. Ronald E. B...: 40:34 Wow. Thank you so much for asking. I grew up [inaudible 00:40:40] Joseph Smith. I just couldn't wrap my mind around him. I even got hired to teach Seminary without having to explain Joseph Smith. So it made me study harder and harder and harder. And I read and read and read books and books and books and books. What I found is by the time I finally got my testimony, Joseph Smith saw me where I was standing and wanted the Spirit to see me. He was a Prophet of God. And, since then, I've studied more, of course. And I just want to bear my testimony: I know for myself beyond a shadow of a doubt, Joseph Smith was a prophet of God. He was the Lord's prophet. He was an imperfect man, but I don't focus on that. I focus on the great things he did 38 years of his life. He was amazing.

Joseph Smith had a way of tuning into the Spirit in a way that no one I'm aware of has had yet. He was just able to tune into the Spirit of the Lord and to know what to do, and to know the right thing to do all the time. And he learned from his lessons. If he made a mistake, he learned from the lesson, and he never did it again.

Hank Smith: 41:38 Yeah.

Dr. Ronald E. B...: 41:38 So I just want to bear my testimony that Joseph Smith was the prophet of God. As far as the Church goes, I know there's a lot of other churches in the world today, and our Church isn't very big compared to most of them. But I know for myself beyond a shadow of a doubt this Church is the Church of God. This is the way the Lord wants us to live. I bear my testimony that's true, and I say it in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

Hank Smith: 42:00 Amen. Ron, thank you. Thank you so much for being with us today. Thank you for your time. Thank you for imparting onto John and I, and our listeners of your incredible knowledge and experience.

Dr. Ronald E. B...: 42:17 Can I say one more thing, Hank?

Hank Smith: 42:19 Please, time is yours.

Dr. Ronald E. B...: 42:19 I just read a book that had 18 chapters in it, each one written by a different person, critiquing Joseph Smith, and every single person had this or that to say about Joseph Smith. And my question to them is this, my question that they don't answer themselves is this: what would Joseph Smith say about the chapters that they wrote about him? What would he say about the critiques they made of him? It's really easy to critique

someone who has passed away, and they're in their grave, and they can't talk back. But if Joseph Smith were here, what would he say?

I want to bear my testimony that I know he's a prophet of God. I don't care what anybody writes. I don't care what anybody says. He's a prophet of God, and everything that people write and say fits into that if they are telling the truth. And there's so much out there that's anti, negative right now that's so bad. At the General Conference, my daughter and I went online and saw the different comments were made about the General Conference, and I couldn't believe there wasn't one positive remark about the General Conference. But there is for me. I know for myself Russell M Nelson is a prophet of God. I know for myself that the people [inaudible 00:43:24] are chosen by the Lord. I know for myself that the Church is true. And I say it in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

- Hank Smith: [42:19](#) Amen.
- John Bytheway: [43:32](#) Amen.
- Hank Smith: [43:33](#) Ron, thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Goodness. I wish I could tell my 20-something-old self when I first met you, "Hold onto this guy. He is something else." John, we have another episode of followHIM in the books. I think I learned some things today that, honestly, are going to impact me for the rest of my life.
- John Bytheway: [44:02](#) Yeah. Every time we get together, it's a new appreciation, another layer of testimony. In this case, a renewed friendship, I haven't seen Ron for a long time.
- Dr. Ronald E. B...: [44:15](#) So good to see you, John. So good to see you.
- John Bytheway: [44:16](#) Really great to be with you. We love you. We do.
- Dr. Ronald E. B...: [44:16](#) Yeah, I love both of you so much.
- Hank Smith: [44:21](#) We do. We are a team. We want to thank Dr. Ron Bartholomew for coming today. We want to thank all of you for listening. We are so very grateful for your support. We want to thank our producers: Steve and Shannon Swarnson, our production crew: David Perry, Lisa Spice, Jamie Nielsen, Kyle Nelson, Will Stotton, and Andrew Morton. We hope that you will join us on our next episode of followHIM.