



"For the Salvation of Zion"

Show Notes & Transcripts

Podcast General Description:

followHIM: 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 Wednesday.

Podcast Episode Descriptions

Part 1:

What if correction from God is one of His greatest and most loving gifts? Clint Mortensen explores Doctrine and Covenants 94-97, highlighting the Lord's loving chastening, the call to walk in light, the power of revelation, the command to build temples, and President Nelson's reminder that the greatest gift we can give the Lord.

Part 2:

Brother Clint Mortensen continues to examine Doctrine and Covenants 94-97, showing how the Lord's command to build a temple in Kirtland parallels President Nelson's modern emphasis on temples, highlighting holiness, repentance, and the joyful blessings of worthiness and ordinances.

Timecodes:

Part 1 -

- 00:00 Part 1 - Brother Clint Mortensen
- 2:11 Episode teaser
- 4:00 Clint Mortensen bio
- 10:01 Gratitude for seminary teachers
- 14:26 Church growth continues
- 17:22 Come, Follow Me Manual
- 18:29 Section dates updated
- 19:45 Chastisement isn't fun for anyone
- 24:49 Mission farewell story
- 27:39 Seeking chastisement and correction
- 32:48 When to chastise others
- 36:55 Left on "read"
- 41:56 President Nelson: joy of repentance
- 43:11 "Walking in darkness at noon day"
- 46:45 Jesus is the light of the world
- 49:11 Eclipse, darkness, and the Savior's light
- 53:29 Dedication of commuting time and a pattern displayed
- 57:58 "Hear Him"
- 59:17 God speaks in dreams, visions, thoughts, and feelings
- 1:03:12 End of Part I - Brother Clint Morensen

Part 2 -

- 00:00 Part 2 - Brother Clint Mortensen
- 00:08 Revelation comes in response to a question
- 03:54 Temple plan
- 06:00 President Nelson's 338 GC temple references
- 08:54 More Temple time = more priesthood power
- 12:08 President Nelson urges, pleads, and invites us to the temple
- 18:08 Most meaningful gifts are those given
- 21:24 Wheat and tares
- 23:57 Temple recommend questions
- 29:53 Glass house syndrome for seminary teachers
- 33:11 Prerequisites
- 38:04 *The Great Divorce* by C.S. Lewis
- 39:31 Childhood memories in temple
- 42:47 Recommend interviews are intended to be positive
- 46:06 Hyrum grabs a shovel
- 48:49 You are on the team
- 50:19 Elder Christofferson: be humble enough to seek correction
- 52:02 Brother Mortensen bears his testimony of Jesus Christ

- 57:47 End of Part 2 - Brother Clint Mortensen

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Biographical Information:



Clint B. Mortensen was born and raised in Springville, Utah. He met his wife, Natilee Bird in high school when they were both asked to speak in sacrament meeting together. After his mission to Neuquen, Argentina, they were married in the Salt Lake temple in 1994. They are the parents of four children and four grandchildren (both three boys and one girl). Clint enjoys golfing with his boys, doing yard work, playing with the grandkids, and going on dates with Natilee and vacations with the family!

Clint earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Utah in business management and a master's degree from Utah State University in family science. Since being hired in 1997, Clint's S&I assignments have included seminary teacher and principal, institute teacher, preservice trainer and director, area director, and assistant administrator.

He has held various callings in the Church including young men's president, stake high council, twice as bishop, and is currently serving as stake president of the Springville Utah Stake (the same stake where Natilee and Clint met in August of 1990).

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Hank Smith:	00:00:00	Coming up in this episode on followHIM.
Bro. Clint Mortensen:	00:00:03	I remember coming home from a long Sunday, walking home, the two blocks from the church to my home when usually my kids come running in and I was able to see the excitement in the kids that I haven't seen for much of the day. On this day, I came in and the house was quiet. I walk in the kitchen and my son Austin is eating a bowl of cereal. He doesn't even acknowledge that I'm walking in the home. I walk in and I see the kitchen.
Hank Smith:	00:00:37	Hello everyone. Welcome to another episode of followHIM. My name is Hank Smith. I am your host. I'm here with my cohost, John Bytheway, whose heart is honest and his spirit trite. John, I was reading section 97 verse eight. I don't think I've ever seen this phrase before. The Lord says, I know your heart is honest. John, that's you.
John Bytheway:	00:00:59	I've got some cholesterol in there too, but, I have meds now.
Hank Smith:	00:01:04	Yeah, I think if you went to the cardiologist, he would say you have a very honest heart. It's honestly very clogged.
John Bytheway:	00:01:12	That's right.
Hank Smith:	00:01:12	John, we are honored today to have with us brother Clint Mortensen.
Bro. Clint Mortensen:	00:01:17	Thank you. A delight to be here.
Hank Smith:	00:01:19	John, I have known Clint Mortensen for a very long time. He is as honest in heart as you are. Two out of the three of us are really honest in heart today. Church has been organized now two years. They're growing like crazy. What comes to mind when you think of, we've got our two church centers, Ohio and Missouri, and there's a lot of growth.

John Bytheway:	00:01:43	In these sections when we look at the New Testament, this the center of everything was the temple and the Old Testament. The Lord has this urgency about, Hey, would you guys get with it? With the temple. One of the things I love about the restoration is this whole emphasis on temples again.
Hank Smith:	00:01:59	We started as kind of a Protestant church. Then we start talking priesthood and sacrament, so now we're kind of Catholic and then let's go back to temples. Now we're going way back. Clint, what are we looking at today? Where are we going to go?
Bro. Clint Mortensen:	00:02:11	I think there's about five things that I'd love to spend some time on. First and foremost, the Lord's going to chasten and correct his people, and that's always a unique thing to learn in scripture. Something that's very challenging for us that we get to observe the Savior do. Then we'll transition and talk about light and darkness. There's a phrase that he uses, walk in darkness at noonday. We will dive into the light of the Savior and what that might mean. We'll spend some time then on revelation, how powerful it is in a time like this, in a difficult time with persecution and poverty, the Lord commanding them to build a temple. They're having a hard time completing such the task, yet he's consistently teaching them and giving them revelation. Then we'll transition into and spend a lot of time talking about temples, both the commandment that the Savior gives for them to build temples, but we'll also spend some time with President Russell M. Nelson and what we're hearing today regarding temple work and we'll end with President Nelson's statement. This is a statement that's unfamiliar to a lot of people because it wasn't in general conference where he says, the greatest gift you could give the Lord is... We'll spend some time answering that question as far as the greatest gift we can give the Lord from President Russell M. Nelson. We'll cover those five things and jump in and out of section 94, 95, 96, and 97 and spend a lot of time with President Russell M. Nelson.
Hank Smith:	00:03:48	I'm excited for today. Now, John, I have known Clint a long time. You've known him about an hour here since we sat down but you have a bio for him.
John Bytheway:	00:04:00	Brother Clint or President in some circles. President Clint B. Mortensen was born and raised in Springville, Utah. I know that's a place that you love Hank. He met his wife, Natilee Bird in high school when they were both asked to speak in sacrament meeting together. Did the bishop know? After his mission to Neuquén Argentina, they were married in the Salt Lake Temple in 1994. They are the parents of four children and four grandchildren. Brother Clint earned a bachelor's degree

from the University of Utah in business management, a master's degree from Utah State University in family science. Since being hired in 1997 in [seminaries and institutes](#) his assignments have included seminary teacher, principal, institute teacher, pre-service trainer and director, area director and assistant administrator. He served in various callings in the church, including young men's president, stake high council, twice as bishop currently serving as stake president in the Springville Utah stake. This is the same stake where Natilee and Clint met in August of 1990, giving talks in sacrament meeting. That's super cool. I think our audience would love to hear, tell us about your assignment with seminaries and institutes because you've been there a long time.

Bro. Clint Mortensen: 00:05:16

Oh, thank you. It's been an absolute delight spending almost 30 years with the youth and the young adults. It's incredible to see what's happening in seminaries and institutes. We've got about 70,000 teachers around the world. 95% of them are volunteers. It's been incredible to see what's happening. Last year we had over 900,000 seminary and institute students in 124 countries speaking 38 languages. That's the highest we've ever seen. In fact, this last year, seminaries and institutes, we had an increase of 90,000 seminary students. Next year, John and Hank, we are hoping, we are praying, we are working, and when I say we, it's volunteers, it's teachers, it's leaders, it's missionaries. By the end of this next school year, we can reach 1 million around the world. We're often asked where this growth is coming from. I think it's connected well to what [President Nelson](#) said. You'll remember him saying, do you see what is happening right before your eyes?

00:06:25

I pray that we will not miss the majesty of this moment. The Lord is indeed hastening his work. We're seeing it in seminaries and institutes. What a blessing. Then you add the other CES institutions like BYU, BYU Idaho, BYU Hawaii, BYU pathway, Ensign College, and this church educational system is incredible. In fact, I think it's fulfilling [President Nelson's](#) invitation when he said, gaining an education is not just a privilege, it's a religious responsibility. Indeed, our education is for the eternities. We're seeing a really large increase in students, but the real miracle, I think, John, in asking about seminaries and institutes is what's happening in the hearts of the students. I was in Texas a while ago. There was some training that had been completed and this sweet volunteer teacher was asked, after this day of training, in a week, you're going to be spending some time teaching your 15 students in early morning seminary. What did you learn today that will help you?

00:07:33 Her statement summarized the real miracle in the hearts of these 900,000 students when she said, well, I think it's about students learning by the Spirit as they study the scriptures to come closer to the Savior. That's been the highlight for me and tens of thousands of other teachers around the world. To see a young man or to see a young woman have an experience in seminary where the spirit speaks to them and draws them closer to the Savior, there's nothing like it. What a blessing to be a part of such a great organization.

Hank Smith: 00:08:10 Yeah, you know, I was in seminaries and institutes. It's called S&I now. I was there for 12 years.

John Bytheway: 00:08:19 In Springville too, right?

Hank Smith: 00:08:20 Yeah in Springville. It's where Clint and I's path, we just keep crossing every couple of years. I was a seminary teacher at Springville High School. I was a red devil for two and a half years, and I loved it there. I feel like I'm an honorary Springville graduate.

Bro. Clint Mortensen: 00:08:35 You are Hank.

Hank Smith: 00:08:35 and I taught Clint's one daughter, Mackenzie, and her husband, wasn't husband at the time, but her husband, Hunter, who we all called Hummer, Hummer Frampton, and Mackenzie Frampton now. Golden kids, the perfect seminary students. My 12 years in seminaries changed me. I think about the people I taught with, the students I taught. The Lord is in that program. I remember [Elder Packer](#) saying, once this program, seminaries & Institutes was started when it was helpful but not necessarily needed, and now it's absolutely crucial to our work.

Bro. Clint Mortensen: 00:09:16 And you know what, Hank, I think I speak for thousands of parents and leaders in thanking you, Hank, not only for the difference that you made for my children, but I think about the 70,000 teachers literally more than that. If you look at how many teachers have taught around the world for the last 20, 30, 40 years, what a blessing the teachers are around the world as they make sacrifices, as they get up early, as they stay up late preparing their lessons, most of whom are volunteers. Sincerely to you, Hank to you, John, all of those wonderful teachers around the world that are having such a deep impact on the youth and the young adults of the church. It's a miracle.

Hank Smith: 00:10:00 Yeah. Since Clint was talking about seminary teachers, I need to thank one, I don't even know his name. Go back to Granger High

School. It's 1962. There's three girls walking back to the school from lunch. Two of them say to the one girl, her name's Cindy. Cindy, you should come with us to seminary. She said, oh, you guys know I don't go to church, and they said, no, no, no. This isn't like church. This is fun. Cindy, her parents were heavy, heavy smokers. Everything smelled like smoke. Clothes, right? Her hair, her skin even. Everything smelled like cigarette smoke and she just did not feel comfortable at church, obviously, they talk about the word of wisdom and they said, no, no, no, you'll like it. It's not like that. She said, all right, I'll come with you. I don't really want to go to biology, right, or whatever she had.

00:10:51 She goes over to the seminary building and it was the teacher, it was his smile. It was his friendliness. You know? It wasn't even necessarily in exactly what he taught, but it was how he taught it. She had never seen a happy marriage, here he was talking about his wife, how wonderful his wife is. She was really struck by this, so she kept missing biology, and going to seminary. Finally, the seminary teacher said, listen, you gotta sign up if you're going to keep coming, so she did. She signed up. That was her junior year of high school. She signed up. Then she signed up again her senior year of high school. From that seminary class, she decided she wanted to be married in the temple. She applied to BYU. This is back when you could get in. She ends up going to BYU and meeting my dad. That's my mom. Cindy's my mom. One day in the next life, I'm going to get to find out who those two girls were and who that seminary teacher was. I hope to show the three of them my family, the people I've taught, this show, none of this happens if those two girls don't invite my mom to seminary. Having you here, Clint really touches my heart.

John Bytheway: 00:12:06 And Hank, you used the word invite. I'm here because my dad came home from the war and he said, I started dating some LDS girls and of all the LDS girls I dated, only two ever invited me to church, so I went to sacrament meeting with one, firesides with the other. The one that he went to sacrament meeting with is my mom because she invited him.

Hank Smith: 00:12:28 Invited. That's all it was an invitation.

Bro. Clint Mortensen: 00:12:32 Actually. We've seen that John and Hank, the youth and the young single adults today are some of the strongest inviters. I think that's part of the reason that we're seeing such growth in seminaries and institutes, the youth and the young adults they invite, so maybe as we as parents or as adults or as leaders, when we're in a classroom or we're sitting around the table talking about seminary or institute, we might want to ask them,

so who are you going to invite? We often ask, what are you learning in seminary and institute? Which is a great question, but another question is, is there someone you know, member, non-member, friend of another faith coming to church, not coming to church, who can you invite to seminary or institute? Because the data shows that when someone enrolls in seminary and institute and they're a non-member, one in three of them will be baptized. That's just incredible at the covenant path and the gathering of Israel and the role that seminary and institute plays. Hank you and your family, you're a great example of that.

- Hank Smith: 00:13:39 Wow. We love helping seminaries and institute teachers. John, we hear from them all the time. They say, Hey, I listen to your show when I'm preparing, it helps give me ideas for what I'm going to do for my class. Let's extend a little bit of an invitation then, if you're a seminary teacher, volunteer, full-time, come onto YouTube or come to our website, follow him.co. Send us a message. We would love to share those with Clint and his team or maybe a seminary, you were a seminary student once or an institute student and it really changed trajectory for you. Come on to YouTube and leave us a comment. Tell us that story. We'll make sure Clint hears and sees all of those. It would be really fun to see how Seminary's Institutes has impacted our listeners.
- John Bytheway: 00:14:26 Clint, when you were talking about growth and use the word increase, I hope people were hearing those words because there's a lot of other narratives out there that just aren't true. There's growth and there's increase. 70,000. I mean, I was thinking about the number of missionaries and you have a similar number of teachers out there. How wonderful is that. Things are growing and increasing. Thank you for putting it that way. I hope everybody heard that.
- Bro. Clint Mortensen: 00:14:54 John, as you mentioned that I had a sweet experience just a couple of months ago. It was outside of Chicago, a small class of 14, 15 students, six in the morning. We've often heard the experience shared in a seminary class where a student arrives. They couldn't find their keys. They were late, and that was the experience that this sweet young woman had shared. That morning was, I couldn't find my keys. I was late to seminary and I prayed and I found the keys and it was such a tender moment. Then this wonderful inspired teacher said, what does that tell you about the Savior? That he would help you find your keys early in the morning on the way to seminary, this sweet young sister shared a tender testimony about the Savior. I sat in the back and thought, this is what seminary is about. A dedicated young woman coming to seminary and an inspired teacher asking a question to help that young woman see the Savior in

her life. It was inspiring, and that happens all around the world. It's fantastic.

- Hank Smith: 00:16:01 Yeah. You're filling my heart here with love overflowing. If there's any of my little former seminary students out there, Snow Canyon High School, Copper Hills High School, Park City High School, Springville High School, I love you, I still love you after all these years. I still love you. I was speaking out in Texas and I had one of my former seminary students, I hadn't talked to her in 10, 15 years. She knew I was coming, so she shot me a message. She said, Hey, I'm going to come see you speak out in Dallas I think we were in. I said, I would love to chat with you, and I'd spoke at this event and afterwards she hung out and I got to talk with her. I said, how are you? We exchanged just some updates and then she just started to weep. I said, Hey, hey, what's wrong?
- 00:16:50 She said, Brother Smith, I'm getting a divorce, and I said, oh, I'm so sorry. I'm so sorry, and she said something that just, I knew I chose the right career. She said, I just want to talk to my seminary teacher, and I said, I'm here. I'm here. Let's talk. It was just a moment where I thought, I love seminary and institute. Okay, I'm going to start crying if we don't get going here, let's jump in. Doctrine & Covenants 94 through 97 For the Salvation of Zion. I'm going to read from the, [Come, Follow Me manual](#). It says, anciently, the Lord commanded Moses to build a tabernacle according to the pattern showed to him in the Mount. The tabernacle was to be the center of Israel's wilderness camp. In 1833, the Lord commanded Joseph Smith to build temples, not after the manner of the world, but rather after the manner which I shall show.
- 00:17:51 Like the tabernacle in the wilderness, the temple was meant to be a central feature in Kirtland. Today, temples are found around the world. Even if they aren't at the center of our cities, they point us to Christ who should be the center of our lives. Though each temple differs in appearance within them, we learn the same divine pattern, a heavenly plan to bring us back into the presence of God. Sacred ordinances and covenants connect us to Christ and strengthen our families, not after the manner of the world, but after the pattern God shows us. I'm excited. Clint, how should we start this lesson?
- Bro. Clint Mortensen: 00:18:29 That's such a great summary of the context of what's happening here. We may know that in early publications of the Doctrine & Covenants, the revelation recorded in section 94 was incorrectly dated as May 6th, 1833, but now we know that the correct date is August 2nd, 1833. Why does this matter? Because today, as

we go through section 94, 95, 96 and 97, section 95 and 96 are both in June of 1833. Section 97 and 94 are in August of 1833. In fact, early manuscripts show that section 94 is actually the last part likely of the revelation in section 97. You can group these four sections into section 95 and 96 in June, section 97 and 94 in August. Again, a quick summary that the people in Zion or Missouri, they're seeing persecution, they're seeing mobs, they're being forced out of their homes and lands. While in Kirtland, generally the saints are poor, they're deep in debt. They lack resources to build a community. Joseph's having to borrow funds to build church buildings and temples. That's the context that we're in. As you mentioned, Hank, with these two church centers. Maybe as we jump into a few of these verses, let me ask you a question. How much do you enjoy correcting or disciplining John and Hank? Is that something you love to do whether you're teaching or as a parent?

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| Hank Smith: | 00:20:05 | I probably avoid that more than I should. That's tough, especially as a parent, you feel like, I need to do this. In the church, as a church leader, that's tough. It's probably easier to avoid. John, what do you think? |
| John Bytheway: | 00:20:20 | Yeah, you used the word easy. It's easier just to say, oh, you're great. You're fine. If you really love somebody, then you do that tough work trying to help. |
| Hank Smith: | 00:20:33 | And it's your role, right? You're the steward. |
| Bro. Clint Mortensen: | 00:20:36 | Yeah. I was informed last year that I was terrible at this as a father. My children around the dinner table laughed and said, dad, anytime you discipline, it was this. You'd finally say, okay, go to your room you're grounded. We'd go up in the room, 10 or 15 minutes later you'd show up and say, oh, are you okay? And we'd say, yeah, I'm kind of sad. Well, did you learn your lesson? We'd say, yeah, I learned my lesson. Okay, come downstairs. You're not grounded anymore, and that was my approach to discipline, at least what my children informed me of years later, but it really is hard. John, you said, when we really love, I think what a beautiful principle. You'll notice in section 88 is received in December of 1832. The Lord commands them to build a temple, to build a house of prayer, a house of fasting, a house of faith, a house of learning. |
| | 00:21:29 | We're now about five months later and there's virtually no progress on the temple. The scriptures are full of examples of the Savior correcting other people. In fact, if you ever want to just sit down and say, how do I correct? How do I discipline? How do I chasten? Prayerfully consider that and study the |

scriptures. The Savior corrects Peter and Paul and Nephi and Laman and Lemuel and Moses. In these verses, the Savior's actually correcting Joseph Smith and these early church leaders. If we can go to Doctrine & Covenants section 97, I want to just read verses one through three with this question. What does the Savior teach us about effective correction or discipline or if we want to use the scriptural term chastening? What I'd love to do is study and look at three verses in section 95 verses one, two, and three with this primary question, what does the Savior teach us about effective correction or discipline or chastening?

00:22:35 Verse one of section 95, verily thus saith the Lord unto you, whom I love. Whom I love I also chasten that their sins may be forgiven. For with the chastisement, I prepare a way for their deliverance in all things out of temptation, and I have loved you. Verse two, wherefore you must needs be chastened and stand rebuked before my face. Verse three, for ye have sinned against me, a very grievous sin in that you have not considered the great commandment in all things that I have given unto you concerning the building of my house. Any thoughts, John or Hank as you look at those three verses, what can we learn knowing that correction and discipline is hard? What can we learn from the Savior and how he addresses correcting and disciplining in others?

Hank Smith: 00:23:28 There is so much to learn here. It's drenched in love. He says that, I love you. I have loved you. To me, there has to be a basis of I know this person chastening me, in this case the Lord, loves me. This is where it's coming from. It's coming from love.

John Bytheway: 00:23:48 When you know someone loves you, you listen differently. That's not a pretended love, but when you know somebody really cares about you, you honestly evaluate what they're saying perhaps better.

Bro. Clint Mortensen: 00:23:59 Yeah, I really appreciate the Savior and that phrase that their sins may be forgiven. You can sense in the Savior, his goodness, his love, his kindness, the desire is that sins will be forgiven. That change and repentance and forgiveness is the end of that love. I also really appreciate, and I've seen this in my life, that the Savior will prepare a way for their deliverance out of the temptation that we experience. He uses the word needs in verse two. Wherefore, ye must needs be chastened and stand rebuked before my face. I'm so grateful for the Savior and his goodness. I see that there are some principles and practices we can learn here about correction. I remember early on in my life, in fact in this very ward where I met my sweet wife, Natilee, I

had my mission call to Argentina. I was meeting with Bishop Walker.

00:24:58 My dad and I worked, meeting with him to prepare for the farewell that we called it back in the day where the whole program was for this missionary. Gratefully that's changed, but I was sitting there. My dad and I were on one side of the desk and Bishop Walker was on the other side. He said, so Clint, what are your thoughts on what do you want the program to look like? So I pull out of my suit coat this paper where I had written the exact program. It was all of my siblings and my mom and my dad. Then me at the end, and I was so excited to have them fill up the entire time so that I would just share my testimony. The bishop said, Clint, I don't think you're going to be able to spend a lot of time teaching and testifying and preparing for your mission if you don't speak. And I'm like, okay, Bishop, that's really nice of you, but I really want to hear... We kind of had this tension between this young missionary and a bishop.

00:25:56 I looked at my dad and said, dad, don't you like this program? My father in his simplistic approach to discipline said, son, I promise you in your life you'll be blessed if you follow the council and suggestion of your leaders. I felt it even sharing this experience now I can still feel the difference that that made when my father simply said, you would be wise to follow your leaders. I'm grateful for kind and candid, firm and friendly correction. I can still remember the tone that my father used in correcting me in this moment. What a powerful moment that was for me.

Hank Smith: 00:26:39 Yeah, I think I need to do a quick shout out to a good friend of all three of ours. His name's Tyler Griffin. Tyler is a member of your stake presidency?

Bro. Clint Mortensen: 00:26:50 Yes.

Hank Smith: 00:26:51 Fantastic teacher. I had a moment of impact. I'm sure he remembers this if he's listening, he was in my classroom, it was a few years ago, BYU, maybe it was more than a few years ago now. Right after a class, he pulled me aside and said, Hey, can I talk to you really quick about something? I knew he loved me, and I said, sure, sure. He was very direct and he said, here's exactly what was said. Here is why that could have some negative impact. Then followed up with, you're a fantastic teacher and I love you. I've never forgotten it. I wasn't angry at him. I wasn't frustrated. He had shown me something I just had not seen. It was something I was blind to. It needed to be fixed or I was not going to have the impact I hoped to have.

Bro. Clint Mortensen: 00:27:39

Aren't we grateful for people like that who love us enough to correct us and we see that so powerfully illustrated in these verses with the Savior. In fact, in [President Nelson's](#) book, Father, Surgeon, Apostle, this experience with Elder Christofferson has shared where shortly after being called to the 70, Elder D. Todd Christofferson accompanied Elder Nelson, now President Russell M. Nelson on a stake conference assignment to Mexico. After the conference, Elder Christofferson said, Elder Nelson, if at any time I need correction, please feel free to give it to me. Elder Nelson's response, I will. That is one of the ways we show love for one another, and I am so thankful for those who love me and love us enough that even in those difficult circumstances can correct us and I appreciate that and that might be an invitation for all of us this week. Find a time this week where we can ask someone that we trust, someone that we know loves us.

00:28:47

Hey, can you gimme some feedback? Can you give me a suggestion? I think we will be surprised at this inspiring nature that the Savior himself will inspire them to teach and correct us. In fact, I think there's another element of correction that [Elder Christofferson](#) also teaches us in April of 2011 in his general conference talk. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten, he said this, I would like to speak of one particular attitude and practice we need to adopt if we are going to meet our Heavenly Father's high expectations and it is this; being willing to accept and even seek correction. If we are open to it needed correction will come in many forms and many sources. It may come in the course of our prayers as God speaks to our minds and to our heart through the Holy Ghost. [Elder Bednar](#) said, if you haven't been rebuked by the Holy Ghost in your personal prayers lately, I'd recommend you improve the meaningfulness of your personal prayers.

00:29:55

I really believe that the Savior in this case is going to correct the saints for not building a temple after five months of being commanded to do so, but I also believe that a loving father in heaven who loves us and wants us to progress daily will answer that prayer. When we ask him for correction, for chastening, for disciplining that through the power of the Holy Ghost, he will regularly correct us. I remember coming home from a long Sunday walking home the two blocks from the church to my home when usually my kids come running in and I was able to see the excitement in the kids that I haven't seen for much of the day. On this day I came in and the house was quiet. I walk in the kitchen and my son Austin is eating a bowl of cereal. He doesn't even acknowledge that I'm walking in the home.

	00:30:54	I walk in and I see the kitchen and it's spotless and I sit next to Austin. I'm like, Austin, how is the kitchen so clean? Wait, Austin, that was your chore for the day and Austin has not even looked at me. He's looking at the back of the box eating his cereal and I said, so Austin, why did you clean the kitchen? Without eye contact he said, dad, because I knew if I didn't clean the kitchen you'd yell at me and I didn't want you to yell at me. And I walk out, sit in the living room, I have this moment speaking of heaven and correction, where I recognized that I needed to change. That moment changed me, and I am so thankful for those small moments in life, in a car, in a home, in a classroom where the power of the Holy Ghost and a loving Father will correct us, not just in the big things to build a temple, but in the small things to improve our worship of the Savior.
John Bytheway:	00:31:59	I think that willingness to ask is the man who came to Jesus and said, what lack I yet? and I don't know about you guys, but I think I would be so afraid to ask that question.
Hank Smith:	00:32:12	I think the Lord would say to me, do you want it alphabetical or chronological? How much time do you have? Right? What lack I yet?
John Bytheway:	00:32:20	For Elder Christofferson to say, if you see anything, that's really a good example.
Bro. Clint Mortensen:	00:32:27	Yeah it's a different level of humility, isn't it?
Hank Smith:	00:32:30	Yeah. I noticed something in almost every story we've shared here, the person doing the correcting often has that role in that person's life. President Nelson to Elder Christofferson, your dad to you, Tyler is my associate dean. I was one of the teachers. It's a parent's role. What caution is there for those of us who think, well, my bishop's doing something wrong and I'm in the ward. Should I go tell him?
Bro. Clint Mortensen:	00:32:59	Hank, that's such a great question. I trust a loving heavenly father to inspire the individual to approach it with the right tone and in the right way. I have a video, this is terrible that I have a video of my 2, 3-year-old daughter in a high chair. I'm looking at her and I say, Mackenzie, I love you, I love you, and I'm saying the right words, but the tone is not the right tone. She actually, in the video starts crying as a father is telling her she's loved, but it's the wrong tone and we've heard this, that you can sometimes say the right thing in the wrong tone and actually say the wrong thing. In this case, Hank with your great, great question. I would hope if I'm taking that approach, whether it's

with a bishop or somebody else, that I would make that a matter of prayer and say, heavenly Father, how do I help? Will you inspire me to say the right thing in the right tone? I really believe Heavenly Father will answer that prayer.

Hank Smith: 00:34:11 I love that, Clint. That was wonderful. We're three verses in and I'm already thinking, okay, I've got to change some things. What do we do next?

Bro. Clint Mortensen: 00:34:19 Interesting we often ask ourselves, okay, that was the correction, how did these church leaders respond? Well, immediately after being chastened [Hyrum Smith](#) runs to the temple site and says, we are preparing to build a house of the Lord and I am determined to be the first at work. I admire these church leaders for being corrected, being chastened by a loving heavenly Father and immediately responding. Then there's a building committee made up of Hyrum Smith, Jared Carter and Reynolds Cahoon. They write a letter to the saints and this is what that letter says. After being chastened by the Savior, we feel under obligation to write you. Unless we fulfill this commandment, we may all despair of obtaining the great blessing that God has promised to the faithful of the church of Christ. Therefore, brethren, we write this epistle to you to stir up your minds, to make the exertion which the Lord requires of you.

00:35:19 May we all be kept by the grace of God unto eternal life. Amen. I'm so thankful for the quick response that these incredible leaders make. In fact, if you'll notice in section 95 and 96, the first sections in June of 1833, you see phrases like whom I love, I also chasten. They stand rebuked. They walk in darkness. If you notice in section 97 and 94, this is how these two sections begin. Verse one of section 94, verily I say unto you my friends, verse one of section 97, verily I say unto you my friends. Well, what happened in those two months? What may have changed that the tone of the latter sections began with my friends? In John chapter 15, verse 14, the Savior says, ye are my friends if ye do whatsoever I command you. I wonder if part of the reason why the beginning of those sections in 94 and 97 are different because they had repented. You've got people like Hyrum running to the temple, building out the fences, beginning to dig the line for the foundation. I'm so thankful that it wasn't just about a loving father who chasten his people, but it was the response of these early saints to actually change and repent.

Hank Smith: 00:36:55 Yeah, they moved. They acted. It reminds me of, my children complain to my wife and I that we leave them on red, which I didn't quite understand what that meant for a long time, but

what it means is they've sent us a text message and we don't respond. It's hurtful to them. Why did you leave me on read and I feel like the Lord is saying that in 95 and 96, Hey, why did you leave me on red? And then the response when they actually don't leave him on read in 94 and 97, he's ah, you, there is a relationship here, right? You are responding to me.

Bro. Clint Mortensen: 00:37:35

Couple of verses to be careful of. In section 95, verse 11, the Savior says, verily I say unto you, it is my will that you should build a house. If you keep my commandments, ye shall have power to build it. Verse 12 says, if ye keep not my commandments, the love of the Father shall not continue with you. [Robert Millet and Lloyd Newell](#) gave a great insight to this verse in their book Drawn Near Unto Me. That really was a blessing to me where they said passages such as Doctrine & Covenants 95 verse 12, occasionally lead individuals who have been guilty of serious sin to feel helpless, to conclude that they're no longer loved by God. In truth, however, God loves all his children, even those who are guilty of a major transgression. These passages of scripture teach us not that God loves one child more than another, but rather that one who keeps the commandments places oneself in a position to receive and enjoy the blessings of the Almighty.

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Boy, I testify that that's true. Heavenly Father loves all his children. Heavenly Father loves his children who make mistakes. Heavenly father loves his children who five months after being asked to do something are still working on that same thing. I'm grateful for Elder Christofferson's invitation for me to consider how to willingly accept and seek correction. This is a plan of progression. We thank God for his correction. I hope I can be like Hyrum Smith that when that correction comes, I'm the first one to go and dig. I testify that the Savior is willing to teach. He's so patient with each of us in our discipleship and connection and relationship with him.

Hank Smith:

00:39:32

Hmm, wouldn't you say, Clint, that one of those, if you keep not my commandments, is to repent. He might be saying, if you're not repenting, you're going to walk in darkness.

John Bytheway:

00:39:43

Right in first Nephi chapter one verse one, which we've all read, and having been highly favored of the Lord and I've thought, does God have favorites? As you keep reading one Nephi, you come across 1 Nephi 17, the Lord esteemeth all flesh in one. He that is righteous is favored of God. Righteous just means you're repenting. God doesn't choose that status, we do, because we have the opportunity to repent, so I like to say there's Lamanites, there's Nephites and there's Favorites. We get to be

Favorites if we choose to repent. When I see 95 verse 12, I think the favor of the Father will continue with you.

- Hank Smith: 00:40:23 Clint, I really appreciate that you brought that thought from Brother Millet and Brother Newell of there might be people listening who think, that's me. I haven't kept the commandments. I don't have the love of the Father with me and I'm walking in darkness. I love that you said, wait, wait, wait. Hold on. This is from [Elder Renlund](#). This is a talk called Latter-day Saints Keep on Trying. April, 2015, he said, even if we've been a conscious deliberate sinner, you're not thinking, I didn't make a mistake, I actually sought out this sin. Even if we've been a conscious deliberate sinner or have repeatedly faced failure and disappointment, the moment we decide to try again, the atonement of Christ can help us and we need to remember that it is not the Holy Ghost that tells us we're so far gone that we might as well give up.
- John Bytheway: 00:41:20 I love that. One of the Savior's titles, I think it's my favorite, at least today it is, I could change my mind tomorrow, is Advocate, that he advocates for us. As Section 45 taught us so beautifully that one of Satan's names is the Accuser. When you feel those kind of messages, the Savior wouldn't do that, he's not the accuser. He's an advocate. Remember what [Sister Runia](#) said in General Conference, I mean the title of her talk, that our repentance doesn't burden the Lord it adds to his joy. You feel that way, just keep trying as Elder Renlund said.
- Bro. Clint Mortensen: 00:41:56 Yeah, and how grateful we are, all of us, for the power of repentance. I'm thankful for [President Nelson](#) reminding us and reminding me of the beauty of daily repentance. There's that phrase, Hank, I think you touched on it a minute ago in verse six of section 95, walking in darkness at noonday. Verse 12. Again, walk in darkness, but that phrase, walking in darkness at noonday. Noonday implying the sun is at its peak, it's warm, it's hot, it's light. Yet how can I walk in darkness at noonday? As a reminder in the context of this section, we're about five months after section 88 was written a couple of weeks ago as we studied section 88, that section is packed with light. In fact, 27 times in section 88, the Savior teaches about light. Now, a few months later, he's saying, listen, you're walking in darkness. I really believe one of the most powerful principles of repentance is the difference between light and darkness.
- 00:43:11 Elder Hales said this because I've wondered about that phrase. What does it mean to walk in darkness at noonday which the Savior's connecting to these saints. [Elder Hales](#) said this in general conference, are we walking in darkness at noonday by

refusing to see by the light of modern prophecy? If we ignore the promptings of the Holy Ghost, the Spirit will fade. Our agency will be limited or lost, and we will lose our confidence and ability to act. We will be walking in darkness at noonday. Elder Hales gives a couple of sweet insights that if we're not careful, we will not see the light that comes through modern prophecy and we will not see the light of the Spirit. Now, just as a review in section 88, I want to read a bunch of phrases from the Savior and what he teaches about light because it's so close to the timeline of what he's teaching now.

- 00:44:10 In sections 94 through 97, verse seven of section 88, Christ is in the sun and the light of the sun. Verse eight, as also Christ is in the moon and the light of the moon. Verse nine, as also he is the light of the stars. Verse 11, and the light which shineth, which giveth you light is through him who enlighteneth your eyes. Verse 13, he is the light which is in all things. Verse 50, I am the true light that is in you, verse 67, and if your eyes be single to my glory, your whole body shall be filled with light and there shall be no darkness in you. Verse 86, at the end, you'll see the last four words, until the Lord comes. Then verse 87, for not many days hence, and the earth shall tremble to and fro as a drunken man and the sun shall hide his face and shall refuse to give light.
- 00:45:26 Then that little c next to the sun cross references to section 133 verse 49 that says, so great shall be the glory of his, Christ's presence, that the sun shall hide his face in shame. What a beautiful principle the Savior's reminding us concerning Christ and light. In fact, I find it interesting in third Nephi chapter one, verse 15, you'll remember that the night that Christ is born on the other side of the earth, as we study the Book of Mormon, what's the sign that he gives the saints in the Book of Mormon concerning his birth? Verse 15. For behold, at the going down of the sun, there was no darkness. Verse 19, it came to pass that there was no darkness in all the night, but it was light as though it was midday. Isn't that interesting that one of the beautiful signs that the Savior is giving that Jesus Christ is born in the earth is a night without the sun. SUN, but yet there is still light as though it was midday.
- 00:46:45 Interestingly enough, years later in 35, chapter eight verses 20 to 23, it's now the sign of his death on the other side of the world. Can you remember what the sign is that he gives there? There's darkness. Do you know this third Nephi chapter 11, verse 11 one of the very first things that the Savior says about himself is, behold I am the light of the world. I'm so thankful to know that we can live in a day like we do today with so much

light, so many opportunities for the power of the Holy Ghost to build us. We have temples, we have scriptures, we have covenants, we have ordinances. Now, you look at 1833 and all of the incredible things that have happened in the early years of the church, the appearance of the Father and the Son, the restoration of the priesthood, the coming forth of the Book of Mormon and the organization of the church of Jesus Christ, and you can almost sense the Savior saying, you are living in a time of light. May we today even recognize the beauty and the light of Jesus Christ that we have in our hearts and in our souls, and even if we're not careful today amongst all of this light that the Savior offers, which is his light, there are some if we're not careful, that we will maybe walk in darkness at noon day and that we don't see the majesty of the moment that we live in and what a beautiful time to be alive.

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| John Bytheway: | 00:48:22 | I love the phrase that Elder Uchtdorf used about living beneath our privileges. That to me is another way of saying, we're walking in darkness at noon day. You're missing all of this light. Build the temple. I want to give you more light. |
| Hank Smith: | 00:48:40 | Think of our day, how much light and truth is available at all times. Can you imagine telling someone in the ancient world, I've got all the sacred writings of prophets on this little device whenever I want them, I don't have to go to the synagogue. I don't have to have someone read it to me. It's in my language and it's available at all times. |
| Bro. Clint Mortensen: | 00:49:11 | Yeah, and that might be part of what the Savior's warning them about and quite honestly warning us about today is that spiritually eclipse with the eclipse being something is in the way of the light of the sun. That creates maybe darkness in my life that we would avoid those things and step outside into the light of the Savior. Don't allow anything to block the light of the sun. We see in those verses in section 88 that the Savior is the light of the sun and the light of the moon. One of the quiet moments I continue to have in my life is seeing the sun and the light of the sun and sensing the power of the Son, the Savior. We have a hot tub at our home and we'll often get in the hot tub at night. There's something special about looking up and even seeing the moon at night, recognizing the light of the moon is really light reflected from the sun that the light of the sun literally is the light of the moon. I'm thankful that even at night the Savior allows us to see his light. |
| Hank Smith: | 00:50:27 | Someone said to me once, I think it was Todd Parker, he said, look at the full moon there, there's 12 of those a year and I said, what do you mean? He said, well, there's 12 full moons that |

basically witness to us, you can't see the sun, but I can and I'll reflect that light onto you, and I thought, hmm, I wonder if the Lord did that on purpose.

- John Bytheway: 00:50:49 The theme for the young men and young women this year is, look unto me in every thought, doubt not fear not from section six. As a matter of fact, just last night I got to meet with the Riverton, Wyoming stake young women. The sun was hitting me up at Heber Valley camp. I asked them, do you guys know who Helen Keller is? and we talked about Helen Keller for a minute, who could not see, who could not hear. My dad had us watch this movie when we were kids called [The Miracle Worker](#) about Anne Sullivan, her teacher. She put one hand under the water in a water pump. Her teacher would like try to sign something in her hand. There is an amazing moment in the movie where little girl Helen Keller connects what's going on in her right hand with what's going on in her left hand, this moment of recognition, and then Helen Keller about wears Anne Sullivan out running around to different parts of the yard.
- 00:51:50 Give me this sign for a tree. How do you spell tree? You know? How do you sign tree? How do you sign grass? Just running around. Helen Keller became this wonderful, powerful woman. She said something later in her life, which I think is so beautiful. She said, when you face the sun, the shadows of discouragement fall behind you. I asked the young women to change SUN like you just did, Clint to SON. When you face the Son, the shadows of discouragement fall behind you. Yeah, it's true both ways, isn't it? Here he is calling us our friends, and I want you to face me. Look unto me in every thought, doubt not, fear not, the shadows fall behind you. Isn't that an interesting thought?
- Bro. Clint Mortensen: 00:52:39 Yeah. I love that. It's those small and simple things I think that are those that make the difference where we can feel the light. I think John and Hank, what you do, what you allow us to learn because of your insights and the guests that you bring. I can't tell you how many times I've been mowing my lawn, how many times I've been cleaning around the house, how many times I've been driving to work in a truck. I have felt the light of the Son because of things that you've taught or those who have been with you have taught. I think this is a great application is finding those times in the day to listen, to ponder, to study, to slow down. Those are the moments, at least for me, that I can feel the light of the Savior and feel his goodness.
- Hank Smith: 00:53:29 Yeah, I have about a 20 minute drive to BYU. It really changes my day, what I listen to. I can listen to a conference talk in that

20 minutes, I could listen to really angry talk radio, I could listen to music. I could listen to a sports station. How much light I choose in those 20 minutes is going to impact the rest of my day. My wife says it this way, why are we digging around in the garbage when the pantry is full? What are we doing? The Lord is offering us so much yet we sometimes choose darkness, trivial things.

Bro. Clint Mortensen: 00:54:06

Something less.

Hank Smith: 00:54:08

Yeah. Clint, this has been fantastic so far. I'm writing notes, filling up the margins here. What do you want to do next?

Bro. Clint Mortensen: 00:54:18

Let's go to section 97 again, we're August of 1833. There's been some good changes, they're moving forward, having received the chastening of the Lord and acting accordingly, you'll notice in section 97 there's a pattern. Verse one. It begins, verily I say unto you, verse two, verily, verily I say unto you, verse three, behold I say unto you, verse eight, verily I say unto you, verse 10, verily I say unto you. Just in those 10 verses, you'll see five times. The Savior says, I say unto you, I'm so thankful to know that the God of this world, the Savior of the world, he who created the world will literally say unto us. Notice in verse one of section 97, verily I say unto you, my friends, I speak unto you with my voice, even the voice of my Spirit that I may show unto you my will concerning your brethren in the land of Zion.

00:55:32

Seven times in this one verse, the Savior refers to himself. In fact, in the four sections that we're studying, sections 94 to 97 over 160 times, the Savior refers to himself, we're so blessed to live in a day where the Savior will continue to teach us individually. Section eight verses two and three may be the most common verses used in the context of revelation. The Savior says to Joseph and Oliver in verse two, yea, behold, I will tell you in your mind and in your heart by the Holy Ghost, which shall come upon you and which shall dwell in your heart. Now, most of the time when we read that verse, if we say, what do we learn about revelation? We'll say, well, revelation comes by the power of the Holy Ghost to the mind and to the heart, which is so true. We often skip over the third and the fourth word in that verse.

00:56:38

Yea, behold, I will tell you, if you'll notice in verse three of section eight, the Savior actually says, behold, this is the spirit of revelation. One definition we can use with revelation is when the Savior through the Spirit teaches us individually, that's revelation. In fact, if you look at the section heading in section 94, section 95, section 96, section 97, the very first word in the

section heading is the word revelation. Over 90% of the section headings in the Doctrine & Covenants begin with that one word revelation. I'm so thankful to see this pattern over and over and over. In the Doctrine & Covenants where the Lord speaks to Joseph, the Lord speaks to the prophet, but the Lord also speaks to us individually. In fact, you may recall President Nelson in April, 2020. He said this, this year we commemorate the 200th anniversary of one of the most significant events in the history of the world, namely the appearance of God the Father and his beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to Joseph Smith.

00:57:58 During that singular vision, God the Father pointed to Jesus Christ and said, this is my beloved son. Hear him. That admonition given to Joseph is for each of us. We are to seek in every way we can to hear Jesus Christ who speaks to us through the power and ministering of the Holy Ghost. We remember 2020. It was consistently that message. Hear him, hear him, hear him. Gratefully led by our amazing prophet. Who's the him in hear him? The him is the Savior. I'm so thankful that we read through these sections which are powerful. The Savior says, verily, I say unto you, we recognize that you is Joseph Smith in the early church leaders, but I testify that the Savior does the same today. President Ballard said, the Lord micromanages his church. I really believe that the Savior himself through the power of the Holy Ghost, will also micromanage our lives if we will simply do the things in our lives to hear him. That's a common message in section 97.

Hank Smith: 00:59:17 I've been quoting [Elder Uchtdorf](#) a lot today. I'm going to do so again with what you just said, Clint. He said, the everlasting and almighty God, this is back in October of 2014, the creator of this vast universe will speak to those who approach him with sincere heart and real intent. He will speak to them in dreams, visions, thoughts, and feelings. He will speak in a way that is unmistakable and transcends human experience. He will give them divine direction and answer for their personal lives. God will speak to you.

Bro. Clint Mortensen: 00:59:56 We're so blessed, aren't we? To live in a day where that's emphasized by prophets, that we can hear him every day of our lives. It's incredible.

John Bytheway: 01:00:07 It's interesting that what brought Joseph Smith to pray was James 1:5 Ask of God. That was a youth theme years ago. Then he did, and the Lord said, this is my beloved son. Hear him. I'm thinking of all the times I say my prayers, but I don't take time to listen and hear. I take time to ask. This President Nelson, yeah, but did you hear? That's a good reminder.

Hank Smith:	01:00:34	Yeah. John, as Clint was teaching us here, pointing us out, all the times I say unto you, I give to you. This is what I want. I thought of what you often say, which is the audacity of this 27-year-old farmer saying, this isn't me. This is the first person voice of the Lord. That's a bold claim. We all believe it.
John Bytheway:	01:01:04	I've actually met John the Baptist. I've actually met Peter, James and John. I actually saw Moses. You're like, w-w-w-what? Wait, what? It's not just, I saw the Father and the Son, but the story keeps going. The audacity of it. Here's the Lord talking revelation, revelation, revelation.
Hank Smith:	01:01:26	And you have the audacity to print it. I'm going to print this because this is the word of the Lord and Joseph Smith. You might say, you don't believe he's a prophet, but you can't say, Joseph Smith didn't believe he was a prophet. He believed it. He said, these are the words of the Lord. I'm going to put them out there. It's bold and beautiful. Coming up in part two of this episode.
Bro. Clint Mortensen:	01:01:52	Finally, I was honest and I said, Hey, do you have a minute? So we went into his office. As we were talking, I said to him, listen, I'm so nervous. I think that seminary teachers have this Glass House syndrome that I've gotta be perfect, that I'm nervous about a career that's going to cause me to literally not be able to make a mistake because I'm going to teach the gospel of Jesus Christ for the rest of my life.



John Bytheway: 00:01 And now onto part two with Clint Mortensen Doctrine and Covenants 94 through 97.

Bro. Clint Mortensen: 00:08 John, as you refer us, like President Nelson did, back to the grove and Joseph Smith, I think of [Elder Holland](#) who taught almost all revelation comes in response to a question. It's so important in our lives that we're asking those questions, and then my mind goes back to [Elder Rasband](#) in his most recent talk Right Before Our Eyes, if you remember, he gives us the invitation to give equal time to the Lord. Then he'll give an invitation for us to study the scriptures, to study Come, Follow Me, pray, serve in callings, ministering, partake of the sacrament, go to the temple, all of these great ideas to help us receive revelation and giving equal time to the Lord, but then he adds one and pondering the things of God. That statement really has impacted me. I've tried to be more intentional in the last handful of months to take time to ponder so that those moments of revelation may come at different times in my life and I'm again so thankful for the Savior, for his ability to teach us through the power of the Holy Ghost. We're in section 97, verse eight, where the Lord says, they are accepted of me. I was thinking, we do so much today to be accepted by others. I actually even went to ChatGPT, you ready for the question I asked?

01:36 Brother ChatGPT, how can I be accepted by others? And this is the response. Feeling accepted is a core human need. Your question shows real self-awareness. Here are some practical and thoughtful ways to be accepted by others without losing who you are. Be genuinely interested in others. Show up authentically. Be kind and respectful. Look for the right people. Work on self-acceptance. Contribute to the group. If you're facing rejection, it's not always about you. Sometimes it's about where you are looking. I thought that was interesting to see an approach to how we are accepted by others. I love verse eight of section 97 because it actually teaches us how we can be accepted of the Savior. Notice verse eight again, verily I say unto you, all among them who know, number one, their hearts are

honest and broken. Number two, their spirits are contrite. And number three, they are willing to observe their covenants by sacrifice. Every sacrifice which I the Lord shall command, they are accepted of me. Reading that verse in the context of these incredible saints who are poor, they're being persecuted. Some of them don't have homes here. They're being asked to build church buildings and to build a temple. The sacrifice that that must be by these early saints, and yet they do so. I can see the Savior being so pleased and accepting their sacrifice as they begin to build these temples and houses of the Lord.

Hank Smith: 03:29

I think many of them had never imagined what a temple might look like. You want us to what? I almost think of Nephi building the ship. Okay, I know how to work with tools. I'll go make some tools. I'll do what I know how to do. Hopefully you'll give me more as we go. If I know my church history right, some of them thought, well, let's build a two story log cabin. Joseph Smith said, no. It's much, much more than that.

Bro. Clint Mortensen: 03:54

Yeah. In fact, in verse 14 of section 95, Hank, as you take us to a great statement, we see what's happening with the hundreds of temples that we have today and the resources the church has today. Verse 14 of section 95. Therefore let it be built after the manner which I shall show unto three of you. Let me read a statement. You'll hear that it's from Frederick G. Williams. A few days after the revelation recorded in Doctrine & Covenants section 95 was received, the Lord fulfilled his promise giving Joseph Smith and his counselors in the first presidency a remarkable vision in which they saw detailed plans for the temple. Frederick G. Williams, the second counselor in the first presidency later recalled, Joseph Smith received the word of the Lord for him to take his two counselors, Frederick G. Williams and Sidney Rigdon and come before the Lord and he would show them the plan or model of the house to be built. We went upon our knees, called on the Lord, and the building appeared within viewing distance, I being the first to discover it. Then all of us viewed it together. After we had taken a good look at at the exterior, the building seemed to come right over us. We can imagine temples because we've seen them. What a beautiful vision these three receive to help create in their minds and hearts what will become an incredible edifice that today still continues to bless us.

Hank Smith: 05:34

I told that story at the Kirtland Temple once, and my son was with me. He said, that sounds like VR, that the Lord put a VR system on them and they went in and out and around.

John Bytheway:	05:43	Yeah, because wait, is this like a chapel? I mean, what are we building? This is different. No, this is a temple. Well, I know that anciently they had a temple. Yeah. Hold that thought. Right?
Hank Smith:	05:53	Yeah.
John Bytheway:	05:53	Here it comes.
Hank Smith:	05:55	I mean, it's going to end up being the largest building within 500 miles.
Bro. Clint Mortensen:	06:00	Why was the Lord so insistent that these early saints build a temple even in times of persecution and poverty? Connect that to why even today is President Russell M. Nelson equally insistent about temple work. A few quick facts. President Russell M. Nelson has given 44 General Conference talks as of the recording of this video, and of those 44 General Conference talks that President Nelson has given as President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. 87% of those talks refer to a temple or to temples. 338 times. In these 44 General Conference talks, President Nelson refers to a temple another 15 times. President Nelson refers to temples as the house of the Lord, 200 temples in his seven and a half years as President of the Church has he announced in General Conference. If we don't hear that and feel the majesty of the moment, it's incredible to me to see how in these sections we are seeing the very beginning of what will change the world, and that is adding temples and houses of the Lord that will scatter and dot the earth.
	07:24	So maybe with that question in mind, why the emphasis on temples? I want to read a handful of statements from these sections where the Savior actually describes why we need a temple. Then right after that statement, I'm going to read to you a statement from President Nelson. I've never met President Nelson, but I know that he is a prophet. He is the mouthpiece of the Savior, and just like the Savior was emphasizing temples, we see the same today. So if you look in section 94 verse eight and section 97, verse 16, the Savior taught, my presence shall be there. These are all reasons as to why we need temples. President Russell M. Nelson declared that the Savior will manifest himself to his people. That this significant promise applies to every dedicated temple today, section 94 verse eight, and section 97, verse 15, the Savior taught my glory shall be there in the temple, President Nelson taught between now and the time he returns with great power and glory, Christ will bestow countless privileges and blessings

and miracles upon the faithful section 95:8, the Savior taught, you will be endowed with power from on high.

08:54 [President Nelson](#) taught more regular time in the temple will allow the Lord to teach you how to draw upon his priesthood power with which you have been endowed in his temple, section 96 verse three and section 97, verse 10, the Savior commanded to build mine holy house. [President Nelson](#) taught, in some respects, it is easier to build a temple than it is to build a people prepared for the temple. Jesus Christ is the reason we build temples. Section 97, 11 to 12, the Savior taught, let it be built speedily by the tithing of my people. President Russell M. Nelson taught each temple constructed results from great personal sacrifice. Section 97 verse 16, the Savior promised I will come unto the temple. [President Russell M. Nelson](#) promised every sincere seeker of Jesus Christ will find him in the temple.

10:04 Section 95 verse 16 and section 96, verse two, the Savior taught I design to build mine holy house. [President Nelson](#), each temple is a holy place. We call attention to the words etched on the temple's exterior, holiness to the Lord House of the Lord. Section 95, verse four, the Savior promised that in the temple I may pour out my Spirit upon all flesh. [President Nelson](#) in the temple, we may receive the fullness of the Holy Ghost. In the last one, section 95 verses two, five and six, the Savior commands to build temples according to the pattern which I shall give you. [President Russell M. Nelson](#) says, establish a pattern of regular temple attendance. This may require a little more sacrifice in your life. What a blessing to see the Savior teaching these early saints the need for the temples. Then President Russell M. Nelson echoing similar language for us today.

John Bytheway: 11:17 Yeah, did you make a chart or a table and see those parallels?

Bro. Clint Mortensen: 11:22 I have a document with all 44 talks that I've copied and pasted into one document. As you know, you can do simple searches. I have felt a joy in my life to prayerfully study regularly the words of the living prophet. I am amazed at President Nelson's dignity, his power. He is an incredible learner. I've found in my life that the best and most powerful teachers are the best and most powerful learners. First, among the many things we love about President Russell M. Nelson, I admire his ability to learn.

Hank Smith: 12:01 What you said to us earlier is part of not walking in darkness at noon day is really taking seriously prophetic guidance.

Bro. Clint Mortensen: 12:10

Around 60 times in President Nelson's again, 44 General Conference talks, he pleads, urges or invites us. I want to read some of these because so many times he urges us and pleads us and invites us are deeply connected to what we're talking about today in these sections, and that is the temple. These are all statements from [President Nelson](#). I urge you to find a way to make an appointment regularly with the Lord to be in his holy house. Then keep that appointment with exactness and joy. I plead with you to counter worldly ways by focusing on the eternal blessings of the temple. If it were possible for me to speak one-on-one with every young adult, I would plead with you to seek a companion with whom you can be sealed in the temple. I invite you to study prayerfully about temples in the scriptures and the words of living prophets.

13:12

I renew my invitation for you to increase your understanding of priesthood power and temple covenants and blessings. I invite you to worship in the temple and pray to feel deeply the Savior's infinite love for you. By the way, [President Nelson](#) is consistently promising. Have you noticed that? I promise. I promise. I promise. Notice these promises from the living prophet about our temple worship. I promise you that the Lord will bring miracles in the temple. I promise that as you increase your time in the temple, you will increase and improve your ability to hear him. I promise you that over time the temple will become a place of safety, solace and revelation. I promise that increased time in the temple will bless your life in ways nothing else can. Here is my promise. Nothing will help you more to hold fast to the iron rod than worshiping in the temple as regularly as your circumstances permit. We are also promised that in the temple we will receive a fullness of the Spirit. Here is my promise to you. Every sincere seeker of Jesus Christ will find him in the temple. I promise that over time the temple will become a place of safety, solace and revelation. If that does not light your fire and motivate you and I and all of us to center our lives on the Savior and our worship of him in the temple, I'm not sure what else will.

Hank Smith: 14:54

John, if you remember a couple months ago, Dr. Shima Baughman was with us and she was pretty vulnerable when she told us about her early in her marriage that it was not going well. There was a lot of friction, a lot of contention between she and her husband. They both wanted the marriage to work. Do you remember what they decided to do? They were going to go to the temple once a week together. Once a week. She said we would go in fighting and we'd come out giggling. We'd come out saying, I'm sorry. That sounds like what President Nelson, why he would plead this can save the most important relationships

of your life. This is everything you care about. This can heal those things.

Bro. Clint Mortensen: 15:41

Yeah, and you can sense the Savior in these early years. Listen to these [promises](#) that he gives. My presence shall be there. My glory shall be there. You will be endowed with power. Mine holy house. I will come unto it. I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh. I am so thankful that we live in a day where we have so many locations. Clearly the Lord and President Nelson and leaders of the church are trying to dot the earth with more and more temples. What a blessing to know that we are being led by a prophet. John, you mentioned President Hinckley. I can still remember the moment years ago as a young father in the Marriott Center on BYU campus. We were having a meeting with President Hinckley at the time with many, many stakes in the surrounding area. We showed up a few minutes late.

16:45

We were supposed to be a half hour early, and we showed up late and I was carrying my son and we walk in and sure enough, the only seats that are available are the highest seats in the Marriott Center that fits thousands of people. My wife and I walked to the almost the very top row, and as we're walking across people making our way through these people, sure enough, my son's binky, he spits out his binky and falls on the floor here. This is a moment where we get to be in the presence of a prophet. To this day, I remember what I felt as I leaned down to pick up the binky and there was something that changed in that room, and sure enough, we stood up and I looked down maybe 20, 30, 40 yards away, clear down in the center of this vast, vast auditorium, and I see President Gordon B. Hinckley walk in and there was a feeling in that building and I knew then, as many of us know now, that the Lord leads his church through living prophets today. Just as the Savior's saying to Joseph, Joseph, we need temples. He's saying the same thing to President Nelson today and we are so blessed by it.

John Bytheway: 17:58

What I love too is there seemed to be no slowing down during COVID. Still no, no, no, no. The work goes on and we're going to announce some more temples.

Hank Smith: 18:08

Clint, I think we could talk about President Nelson and temples forever and I would love it, but let's keep moving. What do we need to look at next?

Bro. Clint Mortensen: 18:17

I'm going to ask you John and Hank a question on the spot. Let's see how you do. Is that okay? You ready? You ready for this? What are the most memorable gifts you have either received or given? For example, when I think about this, I actually did that

this morning. I looked on Google and typed in executioner skateboard in the early eighties. I remember being given a gift an executioner skateboard. It was the gift, the dream of a young boy in Springville, Utah. Can you think of a memorable gift? I gave a gift. I remember recently we went on a family vacation and I created a family album of pictures of our vacation and how meaningful that was for me to give the gift and then see the family looking and smiling and laughing as we thought about this family vacation. Any memorable gifts come to mind for you two?

John Bytheway: 19:16 This gift probably cost me less than 50 cents. It was a piece of paper and a pencil. I drew a portrait of my wife when she pulled the wrapping paper back and saw herself there. To me, that was super, super fun to give that to Kim.

Hank Smith: 19:41 That's great. This is back in the 19 hundreds. I was dating Sara who was going to become my wife. We weren't all that serious. We would date every once in a while and she sent me a Christmas gift and all it was was a tiny little truck. She had painted on it the Rec Mobile. That's where we worked together. We drove this rec mobile, this recreation mobile around St. George did an afterschool program. I remember looking at that and going, she has me. I'm in. I'm in love.

Bro. Clint Mortensen: 20:19 Perfect gift. What a sweet experience to think about these gifts. Not only that we give, but that we receive and maybe some of them are 50 cents to purchase, but a lot of time to create. It's one of my favorite statements from President Nelson. This is not as common of a statement from President Nelson because it's in an article that he wrote in April, 2020. My guess is if we all consider where we were in April, 2020, there was a lot happening, but if you go to April, 2020, Liahona, you'll see a talk from [President Nelson](#) or an article that he wrote called The Future of the Church, Preparing the World for the Savior's Second Coming. In this incredible article, he has the following statement, this is in the context of gifts that we're thinking about. The time is coming when those who do not obey the Lord will be separated from those who do.

21:24 He cross references section 86 verses one through seven about the parable of the wheat and the tares. He then says this, our safest insurance is to continue to be worthy of admission to his holy house. The greatest gift you could give to the Lord is to keep yourself unspotted from the world, worthy to attend his holy house. His gift to you will be the peace and security of knowing that you are worthy to meet him whenever that time comes. Now, what's the connection of that statement to these

incredible sections that we've been studying? Well, you'll notice twice in section 94 verse eight and section 97 verse 15, the Lord warns Joseph and says, ye shall not suffer any unclean thing to come in unto it.

22:26

Now, the it may be the temple, the it may be our bodies. Obviously there's a lot of wonderful applications, but this may be the first reference in the restoration that entrance into a sacred building is restricted to only worthy members. I've wondered how Joseph felt as he's receiving this revelation in the context of church buildings and temples. When he's invited Joseph, he can't suffer any unclean thing to come in unto it and what that means for Joseph. That's in 1833. Let's jump ahead to [President Russell M. Nelson](#) in General Conference in 2019. He said this, the Lord wants all of his children to partake of eternal blessings available in his temple. He, the Savior, he has directed what each person must do to qualify to enter his holy house. All requirements to enter the temple relate to personal holiness. Isn't that interesting? Holiness to the Lord House of the Lord. President Nelson is connecting our personal holiness to the holiness of the house that we will enter into. President Nelson continues individual worthiness to enter the Lord's house requires much individual spiritual preparation, but with the Lord's help, nothing is impossible.

23:57

Then if you'll remember, President Nelson reviews the [temple recommend questions](#). Now I want to read these. Part of the reason why I want to read these is for each of us, if it is true, which I believe it is, that the greatest gift I can offer to the Savior is my ability with his help, with his grace to be worthy of attending these incredible holy houses. These are the [questions](#) that help me assess my readiness to enter the temple. Do you have faith in and a testimony of God the Father, His Son, Jesus Christ and the Holy Ghost? Do you have a testimony of the atonement of Jesus Christ and his role as your Savior and Redeemer? Do you have a testimony of the restoration of the gospel of Jesus Christ? Do you sustain the president of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints as the prophet, seer and revelator and as the only person on earth authorized to exercise all priesthood keys?

25:12

Do you sustain members of the first presidency and quorum of the 12 apostles as prophets, seers and revelators? And do you sustain the other general authorities and local leaders of the church? The Lord has said that all things are to be done in cleanliness before him. Do you strive for moral cleanliness in your thoughts and behavior? Do you obey the law of chastity? Do you follow the teachings of the church of Jesus Christ in your

private and public behavior with members of your family and others? Do you support or promote any teachings, practices, or doctrine contrary to those of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints? Do you strive to keep the Sabbath day holy, both at home and at church, attend your meetings, prepare for and worthily partake of the sacrament and live your life in harmony with the laws and commandments of the gospel?

26:11 Do you strive to be honest in all that you do? Are you a full tithe payer? Do you understand and obey the word of wisdom? Do you have any financial or other obligations to a former spouse or to children? Do you keep the covenants that you made in the temple, including wearing the temple garment as instructed in the endowment? Are there serious sins in your life that need to be resolved with priesthood authorities as part of your repentance, and do you consider yourself worthy to enter the Lord's house and participate in temple ordinances? What an inspired group of questions that help me assess my worthiness, not my value, not the love that the Savior has for me, but my ability to live according to the standards that the Savior has set. In fact, [President Nelson](#) said, the Lord does not expect perfection from us at this point in our eternal progression, but he does expect us to become increasingly pure.

27:24 Daily repentance is the pathway to purity. Purity brings power. [Elder Cook](#) said it is our greatest desire. Think about that statement. It is our great desire that members of the church will live to be worthy of a temple recommend, and then his wise counsel, please don't see the temple as this distant and perhaps unachievable goal. Working with their bishop, most members can achieve all righteous requirements in a relatively short period of time if they have a determination to qualify and fully repent of transgressions. I testify that if there is anyone who is listening to this that maybe wonders about finding peace and finding joy, it is found in the temple. My guess is there are some of us that may wonder, that may worry, that may be concerned about our ability to enter the temple worthy. My simple invitation would be Elder Cook's invitation. Visit with your bishop. Have a conversation. Allow the atonement of Jesus Christ to heal as we strive to do the very best we can so that we can enter the Lord's holy house. See and learn from him.

John Bytheway: 28:48 I love that those recommend questions are out there. I love that they're printed in the back of the [FSY guide](#). I remember way back when [Elder Bednar](#) talked about how gifted young people were with computers, getting them to help research names to take to the temple. Since then, don't you think a lot more younger people are taking advantage of that in our stake? It's

like every week they go do baptisms for the dead. If you can get an appointment, what a wonderful problem to have. It's hard to get an appointment to do baptisms for the dead.

Hank Smith: 29:19

Clint, I'm very happy that you showed us this comes from the Lord himself. The Lord has a worthiness requirement to enter the temple. What would you say to someone who says, is this person gatekeeping my relationship with God? How come this imperfect bishop, stake presidency member, bishopric member, what gives them the right to decide if I can go to the temple? That word worthy can be spun to be a negative.

Bro. Clint Mortensen: 29:55

An experience comes to mind that might help. About 30 years ago as I was considering becoming a seminary teacher occupationally here in Utah, there's a class that you take at an institute. I was up at Utah State University in Logan taking this class. I went for about six or seven weeks. Then I stopped going to class for a couple of weeks, bumped into the institute teacher a couple of weeks after, and he said, so Clint, how come you're not coming to the class anymore? And I think I hummed and hawed and didn't know what to say, And then finally I was honest and I said, Hey, do you have a minute? So we went into his office. As we were talking, I said to him, listen, I'm so nervous. I think that seminary teachers have this glass house syndrome that I've gotta be perfect, that I'm nervous about a career that's going to cause me to literally not be able to make a mistake because I'm going to teach the gospel of Jesus Christ for the rest of my life.

30:55

Now, I realize I didn't quite understand things, but that was my wrestle. And I remember brother Dennis Gibbons leaning back and just chuckling. And I said, what? And he said, Clint, I've learned that seminary teachers are the best repenters. That statement, repenter, I knew how to repent. I didn't know how to live a perfect life. I didn't know how to teach the gospel perfectly. But one thing I did know is I knew how to repent. Maybe that's what I would say to this person is it's less about the bishop and it's less about a gatekeeper, but it is about a holy house and the Lord has holy standards and he calls holy prophets to allow us to feel His Holy Ghost as we enter those holy houses. Meeting with a bishop and counseling together under the influence of the Spirit to help determine worthiness, not perfection, worthiness that does sometimes require repenting is a wonderful experience to allow us to feel like we're meeting those standards with the grace of the Savior.

John Bytheway: 32:08

I love that idea of the best repenter. Anyone who's even asking the question, I wonder if I'm worthy to go? Right there, tells you

something that they're introspecting a little bit. I've heard this and I've tried it myself. Ask a group of young women or ask an individual young woman, what's your favorite part of the young women theme? One of them that I hear very often is, I cherish the gift of repentance. I love the way the phrase is, this is a gift. I love that as far back as the Psalm, who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord and who shall stand in his holy place? This is like a temple verse. He that hath clean hands and a pure heart. What does that? Repentance. But I've always loved that. The last question that you read, Clint, was, do you consider yourself worthy? You're the final gatekeeper there. In a way, your bishop, your stake president, that role will be filled by different people at different times. But every time you get your recommend, you're the one who answers that final question.

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| Hank Smith: | 33:11 | Someone who has a question like this. I've asked if they've ever had to take a class that you had to have prerequisites. If you want to take Spanish three, well have you taken Spanish one and Spanish two? because those are prerequisites to taking this class. It's not a punishment. Spanish one and Spanish two are going to help you succeed in Spanish Three. I wonder if a temple recommend interview can almost be a prerequisite because you're going to come to the temple and learn. We want you to have the best possible experience. The Lord wants you to have the best possible experience you can have there. So there's some prerequisites coming in. If there weren't any, I can't imagine how unprepared so many would be, including myself to learn these weightier matters of the law when I haven't been spiritually educated you might say to why those things are even important. |
| John Bytheway: | 34:12 | I think the Lord wants you to want to be there. Oh, if you want to be there, there's a way. That's what you just said, Clint. You want to be there If you need some help and counseling about it, if you want to be there, we'll get you there I think. |
| Bro. Clint Mortensen: | 34:28 | Yeah, and we all know and remember the verse that we've been touching on multiple times in section 97, verse eight, verily, I say unto you, all among them who know their hearts are honest and are broken, their spirits are contrite and are willing to observe their covenants by sacrifice. Yea every sacrifice which I the Lord shall command they are accepted of me. What a blessing to know that they're his standards in his house. Something that I haven't really talked much about or we haven't talked much about is what temples do. They bring families together. They connect relationships for the eternities. A couple of years ago, we have a family in our community that a sweet young father passed away at an early age. His wonderful wife |

gave an incredible talk at his funeral where she shared this. She said, just days before her husband passed away, he gathered the four boys together and said to them right before his passing, I will always be near the temple.

35:43 Please visit the temple often, and that is where I'll be. Days after his passing, the oldest son quietly asked his mother, Hey, mom, when do you think we can go to the temple? I think that's an inspired question. I think that by the power of the priesthood and the grace of the Savior and the incredible blessings that we have today, it's in these holy houses that families are brought together, that husbands and wives and children are sealed. And as I look back at the Savior in these sections, I'm amazed at his patience that in December of 1832, he commands them to build a house, a holy house. And here we are five months later and not a lot has happened. How grateful I am to see the patience and the kindness of the Savior who corrects us, who loves us. I'm grateful for his light that he has so many incredible ways today that we can feel of his light.

36:53 That part of that light is for us hearing him that he will speak to us one by one, by the power of the Holy Ghost, that he gives us temples to see him, to learn of him, to improve our relationships with him. I'm especially grateful for [President Nelson's](#) reminder where he said, again, in summary, the greatest gift you can give to the Lord is to be worthy to attend His holy house. His gift to you will be the peace and security of knowing that you are worthy to meet him whenever he comes. Let me say that again because the gift that I can offer to the Savior is I'm going to live not a perfect life, but a life with his grace that allows me to enter his house. But his gift to you, President Nelson says, will be the peace and security of knowing that you are worthy to meet him whenever that time comes. We live in such a wonderful time and how blessed we are to have the Savior's direction in our lives.

Hank Smith: 38:02 I noticed Clint in both 94 verse eight and 97 verse 15, I notice what the Lord doesn't say. He doesn't say, he shall not suffer any unclean person to come into it. He says unclean thing. He says that again in 15. Do not suffer any unclean thing to come into it. John, do you remember [CS Lewis](#) and the Great Divorce where the Savior says to this man who wants to go to heaven, you can come in, but that and pointing to this big red creature on his shoulder that represents his sins, that can't come in here. It's not the person the Lord is saying can't come in here. It's that thing that in Lewis's writings, you've got to divorce yourself from. That thing can't come with you. That maybe is a small nuance, but I think it's an important one. As you're working to

		obtain a temple recommend this isn't about your worth, but it's about the things that are coming with you.
John Bytheway:	39:19	Maybe your willingness to accept the Savior's persistent invitation to come to him and let him cleanse you.
Hank Smith:	39:31	Well said John. Almost 20 years ago, I still remember this talk from General Conference. It was from Elder Rasband . He wasn't a member of the 12 then, but he was pretty vulnerable when he shared this story. He talked about being called to serve in an area presidency as a member of the 70 they were in England. He worried about his children coming with him. Our daughter, he says, was a young single adult and our son, a 17-year-old who liked American style football and played it very well. We were very concerned about them. No friends, no extended family and no American football. I wondered, would this exciting new experience prove to be a serious trial for our family? He talks about meeting with the missionaries and then visiting the Preston England temple. As we walked near the front door there stood President and Sister, I think it's Swanney, the temple president and matron.
	40:31	They greeted us and welcomed us into the temple with "Elder Rasband how would you and your family like to perform baptisms for the dead?" What a wonderful idea. We looked at each other and gratefully accepted. Now I need to say John, I think this was before there was this constant invitation for youth to come anytime they wanted to do baptisms. He said, after performing the ordinances and while my son and I were still in the font with tears of joy in our eyes, he put his hand on my shoulder and asked Dad, why haven't we ever done this before? I thought of all the football games, all the movies we had attend together, all the good times we had shared. Certainly happy memories and traditions that are so important to build. However, I realized we had an opportunity to add more meaningful spiritual experiences with our children, like what we had experienced in Preston that day.
John Bytheway:	41:35	It's almost like you want to restate that sentence. Why hadn't we ever done this before?
Hank Smith:	41:41	Yeah, we've done a lot. Why haven't we done this? Yeah, and these are good moments. I need to repent myself and and get my family at the temple.
John Bytheway:	41:53	I remember as a bishop having these sweet saints come in that weren't sure they were worthy for the temple. I know that Satan likes to tell them that so many times. I want to say more

than once, but it was many times feeling the inspiration of, I want this person in the temple. That was a testimony to me. Not only is the Lord willing to forgive, but he wants to forgive. He wants to get people who want to get their lives right. He wants to help them get their lives right. He wants them in the temple because it will be such a place of hope and healing and really an endowment of power for them where they'll feel more powerful to go, more empowered to survive in this tough world right now. More empowered to feel joy in this through their tests and through their trials.

- Hank Smith: 42:47 I hope anyone listening that a temple recommend interview, just that right there. This is supposed to be a positive, wonderful thing. So often, I guess maybe in our world of getting called to the principal's office or coming in for this big interview is it's supposed to be intense and scary. Knowing the Lord like we do, I am certain he is doing everything for our benefit. I hope that there's a sense of excitement. A good bishopric member, a good stake presidency member who only wants good things for me as well. I can't think Clint as a stake president or John, you as a bishop, we're looking to keep people out.
- John Bytheway: 43:28 Right.
- Hank Smith: 43:29 Let me nitpick every part of your life.
- John Bytheway: 43:32 So often as I was going to try my best to fulfill my calling as a Bishop the song in my head was, who am I to judge another when I walk in perfectly? when I had those opportunities to be a judge in Israel.
- Hank Smith: 43:49 I think that that's an excellent attitude John.
- John Bytheway: 43:52 My friend, he was President Monson's bishop for a while. He went down to see President Monson to give him a temple recommend interview, and with every question that he asked, President Monson went, yes, yes, yes, and he hit the table and said, yes. It was like you were talking about looking forward to that and hey, interview me. You know? And yes, for what we're talking about here, I love the word strive that's in there.
- Bro. Clint Mortensen: 44:26 Yeah, I love that statement that the Lord celebrates progression when oftentimes we almost feel like he only celebrates perfection, and this is a plan of progression. Whether the word is strive or progressing, there's such a feel of celebration when we're getting better. Line upon line, precept upon precept, even the Savior, again, going back to where we started, verily, thus

saith the Lord unto you whom I love and whom I love, I also chasten. I have loved you. Not that we always feel it with maybe the leaders and the priesthood leaders of the church, but I do believe as they do represent the Savior, the Savior does have perfect love. The Savior does communicate perfectly. The Savior knows us perfectly.

- John Bytheway: 45:22 As Clint has talked about here. Just read the Doctrine & Covenants what do you see? You see people trying and failing and trying and failing and trying and failing. Even the leaders, you see the Lord saying, you're forgiven. You're forgiven. You're forgiven. That itself ought to send a message. As Clint, you've said so beautifully. What do we learn about Jesus from all of these revelations where he's, okay, I love you. It's been five months, I love you. Let's get started. We're learning what he's like, and use what you are learning about the Lord from the Lord and apply that to your efforts to get back to the temple.
- Bro. Clint Mortensen: 46:06 And maybe even connecting that with Hyrum Smith. One thing I love about Hyrum is the moment there was a sense of change needed, he was the first one to run and start to dig. No hesitation. There's something about someone that even though they don't know the end, even though there may be some questions as far as worthiness, the ability to move and to act and to knock on the door or text the bishop or call and make an appointment, miracles will happen. Hyrum saw that in taking his first steps toward building the temple. I think we can do the same thing with our first steps to return or enter the temple.
- John Bytheway: 46:49 Oh, I love the phrase you used. The first steps when I was a bishop, our bishopric decided on a theme for one of the years, and that was, what is your next step? For some, it was you have a recommend, but you're not using it. For some, it was you need a recommend. You know? For some it was get back to your meetings, but whatever that was for you, ask the Lord, what's my next step? because he wants to help you take that.
- Hank Smith: 47:18 That's great. I love that application. We can all be like, Hyrum Smith, what do I gotta do? I'll do it right now. Right? I think he leaves the meeting. I think he hears this revelation, goes and grabs a shovel and says, all right, let's get started. Let's go.
- John Bytheway: 47:33 That's George D. Watt. Who hears is it Wilford Woodruff and races to the river Ribble. I want to be first.
- Hank Smith: 47:41 Yeah. Anybody listening could go and find those temple recommend questions that Clint read. They're right in the church's handbook. You can find them on your gospel library

app. You could go back in the podcast and listen to Clint read off those questions, and as you go through each one, if you don't feel like you're there, what would Hyrum Smith do? If I don't feel like I have a testimony of God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Ghost? Well, I'm going to go get one.

John Bytheway: 48:08

Yeah, maybe your next step is to start reading the Book of Mormon a little bit every day. Maybe your next step is to get on your knees and say, heavenly Father, I don't feel worthy to pray, but here I am. That's a big step. Take it.

Bro. Clint Mortensen: 48:22

And maybe your next step is the Relief society presidency member or the ministering sister or brother that continues to knock at the door and try and find opportunities to connect that you open the door, that you open a conversation, that you're honest with them and you ask the question again. Almost all revelation comes in response to a question, so ask the question and counseling together, which I appreciate.

Hank Smith: 48:49

Can I share with you a a sweet experience? I had just a couple months ago, I was talking to one of my favorite people, her name is Sage Stevenson. I was on a church history tour with her and her parents, Nick and Emily. We were talking about temples and missionary work. How do you know if you're on the right path? How do you know if you're doing the right things? It fits our discussion today. I said, Sage, you've ever been on a team? And she said, yeah. I was on the cheer team through high school, and I said, okay, you're on the cheer team. What were tryouts like? She said, tryouts are intense. And then I said, okay, but you've made the team. Your name is on the list. You're on the team. She said, okay, I'm on the team now. Is every day after that, is that tryouts?

49:33

Are you afraid you're going to get cut every day after that? She said, no, no. I said, well, why not? She said, well, you've made the team. You're on the team. I said, well, what's your job now? She said, get better. Listen to the coach and get better. And we talked about how the gospel is the same way you've been baptized. You sincerely want to live your covenants. You're on the team, you're on the team now. Let's get better. Let's get better. Let's listen to the coach. Let's work with each other. Let's get better. And she nodded, and she said, I like that. I'm on the team. I think that's what Clint you're inviting us to do today is let's improve wherever we are.

Bro. Clint Mortensen: 50:19

That was where Elder Christofferson took us at the beginning of today's discussion, was having the humility to seek correction, especially from our Heavenly Father. Try and have that

conversation maybe even before we enter into a bishop's office to discuss some things and changes that need to be made. Maybe the next step, even before that, is closing the door, kneeling down and having a conversation with Heavenly Father and having a conversation with him first, seeking correction and direction and ideas and revelation from him first, then stand up, grab the shovel and go to work. Let's go to work.

Hank Smith: 51:04

That's exciting. I have a last question for you. You have a pretty unique perspective with 30 years, you don't look it, but 30 years in church education, working full-time for the church, being an administrator in church education, so there you are in the church office building, in church administration building. You're working with leaders of the church and been a bishop twice and a stake president. Now, that's a unique perspective. It doesn't make you better than anyone listening. I don't want anyone out there going, wow, I need to be those things. You don't need to be those things. This is just a unique perspective. What have you learned? What have you seen about this church? Is the Lord in it? I think our listeners would love to hear from your perspective what it that's been like.

Bro. Clint Mortensen: 52:02

That's a really good question, Hank and a couple of thoughts come to mind. One is, I am amazed at the dedication, the sacrifice of literally tens of thousands of teachers and leaders, hundreds of thousands of parents around the world, how much they value and love their children, and that the church educational system is designed for that reason. It's the Savior saying, I love my children. Education will bless them. A spiritual education will draw them closer to the Savior. I'm grateful Hank, for the incredible leaders of the church, I am inspired by their goodness. I'm inspired by their humility. None of us, no one is perfect, yet the kingdom of God goes forth. I believe because it makes me happy. I know that sounds simple, but I am happy when I am learning by the power of the Holy Ghost. I am happy when I am studying the words of the living prophet.

53:10

I am happy when I am with my family. I feel joy walking into the temple as an imperfect person to worship a perfect God. I am happy when I am studying the Doctrine & Covenants and learning from the incredible examples of others. I feel joy when I'm able to serve and to help. I enjoy service. I enjoy being with people. I had an experience where this was struck deeply to me. Years ago I had a son that was playing at a state championship basketball game. He actually made a three pointer at the buzzer to send them into overtime. They won the state championship that night. It was a great celebration. The next morning, I'm on the stand and I look over and see the same son kneeling down,

blessing the sacrament, and in that moment had a simple impression. This matters much more than what happened last night.

54:20 I felt that as good as a celebration of a championship was, it was nothing compared to the ordinance of the sacrament and this great group of saints, none of whom were perfect in a congregation, worshiping the Savior, having my son be able to participate in that, and that's a choice. A choice that brings me joy and happiness. That's really what it's all about, Hank. It's about people being drawn closer to the Savior through the power of the Holy Ghost, and you've seen it over and over and over, and it happens everywhere, and it's incredible. The majesty of the moment. It's astonishing to me.

Hank Smith: 55:01 Yeah, John, it's a good day. I know when I'm feeling the Holy Ghost, because I don't want it to end.

John Bytheway: 55:08 We have that a lot.

Hank Smith: 55:10 Yeah. Let's just keep going. Well, Clint, thanks for joining us. Thanks for taking your time to be with us, and thank Natilee for us for letting us steal you away. With that, we want to thank brother Clint Mortensen for being with us today. We want to thank our executive producer Shannon Sorensen, our sponsors David and Verla Sorensen, and every episode we remember our founder Steve Sorensen. We hope you'll join us next week. We've got some things happening in Missouri we need to talk about on followHIM. Thank you for joining us on today's episode. Do you or someone you know speak Spanish, Portuguese, or French? You can now watch and listen to our podcast in those languages. Links are in the description below. Today's show notes and transcript are on our website. Follow him.co. That's follow him.co. Of course, none of this could happen without our incredible production crew, David Perry, Lisa Spice, Will Stoughton, Krystal Roberts, Ariel Cuadra, Heather Barlow, Amelia Kabwika, Iride Gonzalez, and Annabelle Sorensen.

followHIM Favorites



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| Hank Smith: | 00:03 | <p>Welcome to followHIM Favorites. This is where John and I are sharing a single story to go with each week's lesson. John, we are in sections 94 through 97 this week. I know I've done a couple in a row, but I've got a great story for you. This is section 95 verse one. Verily thus saith the Lord unto you whom I love and whom I love I also chasten that their sins may be forgiven. John, I don't know if you've ever been chastened by the Lord, a little divine discontent where you know you can do better than this.</p> |
| John Bytheway: | 00:39 | <p>You feel about this big.</p> |
| Hank Smith: | 00:40 | <p>But it's never shameful. It's never, you're the worst. It's, hey, you can do better. Here is the story, John, that I have for you. This comes from Elder Jeffrey R. Holland, and I love that he's pretty vulnerable here about when he was a young father. Okay. Here's how it goes. He says, early in our married life, my young family and I were laboring through graduate school in New England. Pat, his wife was the Relief Society president, and I was serving in the stake presidency. I was going to school full-time. I was teaching halftime. We had two small children, little money and a lot of pressure. He said, one evening I came home from a long day, long hours at school, I was feeling the weight of the world, he says, on my shoulders. Everything was demanding and discouraging and dark. He walks into his little student apartment and there's some silence there, so he turns to his wife, Pat, what's the trouble?</p> |
| | 01:44 | <p>Pat says, Matthew has something he wants to tell you. Matt, what do you have to tell me? He was quietly playing with his toys in the corner of the room. Matt, I said, a little louder. Do you have something to tell me? He stopped playing, but for a moment, didn't look up. Then, two enormous tear filled brown eyes turned towards me, and with the pain only a five-year-old can know. He said, I didn't listen to mommy tonight, and I spoke back to her. He burst into tears. His entire little body shook with grief. His indiscretion had been noted. He had offered this painful confession. Elder Holland says, a loving reconciliation</p> |

could have been wonderfully underway. Everything could have been terrific that night, except for me. I am ashamed. This is Elder Holland. I am ashamed beyond expression to tell you how I acted, I lost my temper.

02:52 It wasn't that I lost it with Matt. It was a hundred other things on my mind. He didn't know that, and I wasn't disciplined enough to admit it. He got everything. He calls it the whole load of bricks. I told him I was disappointed, how much I thought I could expect from him. Then I did something I'd never done in his entire life. I told him he was to go straight to bed and I would not be in to say his prayers with him or tell him a bedtime story. Muffling his sobs he obediently went to his bedside where he knelt alone to say his prayers. Then he stained his little pillow with tears his father should have been wiping away. If you think the silence upon my arrival was heavy, you should have felt it now.

03:41 Pat did not say a word. She didn't have to. I felt terrible. Later, as we knelt by our own bed, my feeble prayer, asking for blessings upon my family fell back on my ears with a horrible hollow ring. I wanted to get off my knees right then and go to Matt and ask his forgiveness, but he was long peacefully asleep. My relief was not so soon coming. I finally fell asleep and began to dream, which I seldom do now, John, listen, I dreamed Matt and I were packing two cars for a move. For some reason, his mother and baby sister were not present. As I finished, I turned to him and said, okay, Matt, you drive one car and I'll drive the other. The five-year-old obediently crawled up into the seat and tried to grab the massive steering wheel. I walked over to the other car and started the motor.

04:34 I began to pull away. I looked back to see how my son was doing. He was trying. Oh, he was trying. He tried to reach the pedals. He couldn't. He tried turning knobs and pushing buttons, trying to start the motor. He could scarcely be seen over the dashboard, but there staring out at me again, was those same tear filled, beautiful brown eyes. As I pulled away, he cried out, daddy, don't leave me. I don't know how to do it. I'm too little, and I drove away. A short time later in my dream, I realized in one stark, horrifying moment what I had done, I slammed my car to a stop, threw open the door, and started to run as fast as I could. I left the car, the keys, the belongings, and I ran. The pavement was hot. It burned my feet. Tears blinded my effort to see this child somewhere on the high horizon.

05:22 I kept running, praying, pleading to be forgiven, and to find my boy safe. As I rounded the curve, nearly ready to drop from

physical and emotional exhaustion, I saw the unfamiliar car I had left Matt to drive. It was pulled carefully off the side of the road, and he was laughing and playing nearby. Now, John, remember whom I love I also chasten that their sins may be forgiven. An older man was with him playing and responding to his games. Matt saw me and cried out something like, hey, dad, come on over. We're having fun. Obviously, he had already forgiven and forgotten my terrible transgression against him, but I dreaded the older man's gaze, which followed me with every move. I tried to say thank you, but his eyes were filled with sorrow and disappointment. I muttered an awkward apology, and the stranger said simply, you should not have left him alone to do this difficult thing.

06:24 It would not have been asked of you. Ouch. Man. With that, the dream ended. I shot out of bed. My pillow was now soaked with tears. I threw off the covers. I ran to that little metal camp cot that was my son's bed. Then on my knees and through my tears I cradled him in my arms and I spoke to him while he slept. I told him, every dad makes mistakes, but they don't mean to. I told him it wasn't his fault, I'd had a bad day. I told him that when boys are five or 15, dads sometimes forget and think they're 50. I told him that I wanted him to be a small boy for a long, long time because all too soon he would grow up and be a man and wouldn't be playing on the floor with his toys. When I came home, I told him that I loved him and his mother and his sister more than anything in the world, and that whatever challenges we had in life, we would face them together. I told him that never again would I withhold my affection or my forgiveness for him, and never, I prayed would he withhold them from me. I told him I was honored to be his father, that I would try with all my heart to be worthy of that great responsibility. Wow! What a story, John.

John Bytheway: 07:41 Yeah, and like you said Hank, Elder Holland's willingness to be vulnerable and tell us about a time when he messed up.

Hank Smith: 07:50 John, you've taught me to repent to my kids. You've said that multiple times.

John Bytheway: 07:53 Sorry, I lost it today. Sorry. That Matt with the big brown eyes is now Elder Matt Holland of the quorum of the 70.

Hank Smith: 08:03 Yeah. Yeah.

John Bytheway: 08:04 How cool is that?

Hank Smith:	08:07	Absolutely wonderful. I think the Lord here is saying, yes, this is gonna sting a little bit, but it's not because I don't love you. It's, I love you. I chasten you so your sins can be forgiven. I want to get you out of this. This is what it's gonna take.
John Bytheway:	08:22	Became a learning experience.
Hank Smith:	08:24	Hmm. Yeah. We hope you'll join us on our full podcast. It's called followHIM. You can get it wherever you get your podcasts. We are with Brother Clint Mortensen this week. He's a long time friend of mine. He goes step by step through these sections. It's beautiful. The principles he draws out are really practical and life changing things you can use today.
John Bytheway:	08:45	Today. Mm-hmm.
Hank Smith:	08:46	And then come back here next week. We'll do another followHIM Favorites.