

THE SIX LEVELS OF CONVERSION

(Notes taken from a lecture by Chauncey Riddle in 1967. Publication rights are strictly reserved to C. Chauncey Riddle.)

Introduction:

- The purpose of the gospel is to change, or convert, mankind.
- There are as many levels of conversion as there are people.
- No one is really converted until they are finally touched by the pure teachings of Jesus Christ.
- A person builds gradually toward conversion. It is a step by step process.
- Men and women are included, equally, in all six categories of conversion.

Married men are encouraged to keep their wives on the same level of conversion as they are, so that they may walk the path to the Celestial Kingdom together.

The following pages help us to recognize two things:

- Where we are on the levels of conversion,
- Where our friends and loved ones are - the better to guide them.

LEVEL ONE - Converts to LDS Society

- These are members and nonmembers who appreciate the cultural and social relationships of an LDS community; but feel that the Church is of little or no benefit to them,
- They may attend occasionally - when pushed - but are certainly not enthusiastic about it.
- They are not happy with the concept of authority, and squirm at the idea that someone presides over them.

LEVEL TWO - Converts to the Church

- Members and nonmembers who have had a spiritual witness that the Church is true.
- They are pleased to have Church authorities preside over them. They don't always do as they should; but if duty, and responsibility, are stressed, they will do as they are asked.
- They recognize the divine calling of the Church in the world.
 - Most Church members fall in this category.

LEVEL THREE - Converts to the Lord Jesus Christ

- They are members of the Church who have made a purposeful commitment to Jesus Christ. Their desire is to follow Him completely.
- They look to Christ to save them, and do not rely upon their own strength and ability.
 - They have taken the Holy Spirit as their guide.

- They prepare their homes and families to give help to others when times get rough. Their attitude is: "I will bless the Church and its members in any way I can."
- They re-charge themselves, spiritually, through reading, prayer and fasting during the week, and attend Church to help others become similarly re-charged.
- If called upon to speak, they always have an appropriate message to give. They are always preparing, And the Spirit readily gives them ideas when they are needed.
- They look to the Church for their authority; and are willingly obedient to the wishes of authorities that are placed over them.
- They are always in attendance at Church functions.
- They see the Church as a marvelous channel through which they can bless the lives of others. Hoping to help others become sanctified.
- They love Church work, and give their full energy to fulfil every calling to which they are assigned.
- They have learned to be Saints. They are truly brothers and sisters in Christ.
- Once a person becomes a Saint he no longer seeks his answers from other people; but receives them from the Lord through prayer.
 - As a rule, anyone who must ask another person for an answer, is not spiritually prepared to receive it.
- They are willing to give their lives for the gospel.
- These disciples are sprinkled through the Church, and are the backbone of the Church wherever they are.

LEVEL FOUR - A prophet

The First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve are sustained as **P**rophets; but anyone may become a **p**rophet. For most of us, it is a type, not a position.

Within the bounds of their stewardships:

- They hold keys of the priesthood that bless the lives of others.
- They are inspired by the Holy Spirit, and speak the word of God to those who fall within their stewardships.
- They are governed by the spirit of the priesthood.
- Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, they do everything within their power to carry forth the stewardships that have been given them.
- They have learned to be Fathers and Mothers in Christ. Guiding and blessing the lives of everyone they touch.
- It is the desire of the Lord that every man and woman become a prophet in his own station and position.
 - *Moses said: "Would God that all the Lord's people were prophets, that the Lord would put his spirit upon them!"*

- Joseph Smith said: *"The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy; therefore, if I profess to be a witness or teacher and have not the spirit of prophecy, which is the testimony of Jesus, I must be a false teacher; but if I be a true teacher and witness, I must possess the spirit of prophecy, and that constitutes a prophet..."*

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LEVEL FIVE - A seer

Bruce R. McConkie said: *"A prophet is a person who knows by personal revelation, from the Holy Ghost, that Jesus Christ is the Son of God...He is then in a position to press forward in righteousness to gain other revelations including those which foretell future events."*

The First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve are sustained as **Seers**; but anyone may become a seer. For most of us, it is a type, not a position.

- They have penetrated the veil with their eyes and perhaps with their touch.
- They do not live wholly in the world.
- They have seen the Savior, and, therefore, their testimonies are absolute.
- Their work is of a greater worth than that of a prophet. (see Mosiah 8:15-18)
- To a seer, the seeing comes through the Spirit, and is infinitely valuable.
 - If you should ever talk to someone who has seen the Savior it is a great blessing. For you would soon discover that his questions and declarations penetrate to the very heart of the matter, and are confirmed by the Spirit to an amazing degree.

LEVEL 6 - a patriarch

There are **Patriarchs** and there are **patriarchs**. anyone may become a **patriarch**. For most of us, it is a type, not a position.

- A patriarch is a man such as Abraham, who was tried and true in all things.
- A patriarch is a Saint, a prophet, a seer and a mighty man.
- A patriarch can do anything that needs to be done:
 - Move mountains,
 - Stop a fire from burning,
 - Heal,
 - Speak in tongues.

A patriarch has achieved the full powers of the gifts of the Spirit. He hasn't just wished for these powers. He has demonstrated to the Lord that he can be trusted in all circumstances, and has worked, prayed and fought until he received them. These gifts are listed in DC 46:7-33, especially verses 13-25.

- He has become superhuman.
- The genius of the gospel is that it strives to make us all superhumans.
- If he needs money, power, or influence, the Lord will show him how to get what he needs.

- "The fervent effectual prayer of a righteous man availeth much."
- When a patriarch preaches to the people he is given the power to help them repent, and bring them to conversion.

Modern revelation paints an enticing picture of what a man may become through living the gospel; if he will labor all his days actively seeking Jesus Christ through the Spirit.

- JST Genesis 14:25-40 (Melchizedek)
- Moses 7:13 (Enoch)

This only happens when he loves the people around him, and is eager to help them in any way he can. Under these conditions, the Spirit will show him how to subdue self-interest completely; thus opening him to spiritual gifts.

With righteousness comes great power. We should live, and serve through Christ, to the degree that we can bless and shield others from any difficulties that are not good for their souls.

It is worth everything we possess to become powerful doers of good.

People in the Church would be righteous if their leaders would provide proper spiritual guidance and leadership.

Great difficulties will confront the Church, and its people, in the future. the patriarchs of the Church will be the only ones capable of helping the people survive the onslaught.

In the next 20 years patriarchs will be seen to emerge all over the Church.

We should not overtly seek these things. We should only strive to bless others with all our hearts and souls, and the rest will take care of itself.