

# Requirements for Baptism

## D&C 20:37,68-84



*“And the first fruits of repentance is baptism;  
and baptism cometh by faith unto the fulfilling  
the commandments; and the fulfilling the  
commandments bringeth remission of sins;”  
Moroni 8:25*

**Suggested Song:**  
*When I am  
Baptized  
Children’s  
Songbook #103*

# Background

On April 6, 1830, as part of the meeting to organize the restored Church of Jesus Christ, Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery confirmed those who had previously been baptized and bestowed upon them the gift of the Holy Ghost

*History of the Church*

Joseph Smith's parents were baptized and confirmed that day. This was a joyful time for the Prophet, who exclaimed, "Praise to my God! that I lived to see my own father baptized into the true Church of Jesus Christ!"

Lucy Mack Smith



# A Name and a Blessing

*“Every member of the church of Christ having children is to bring them unto the elders before the church, who are to lay their hands upon them in the name of Jesus Christ, and bless them in his name.”*



“Baptism is for the remission of sins, and no man can repent of a sin until he is accountable before God.”

Joseph Fielding Smith



“...wherefore, little children are whole, for they are not capable of committing sin;”  
Moroni 8:8

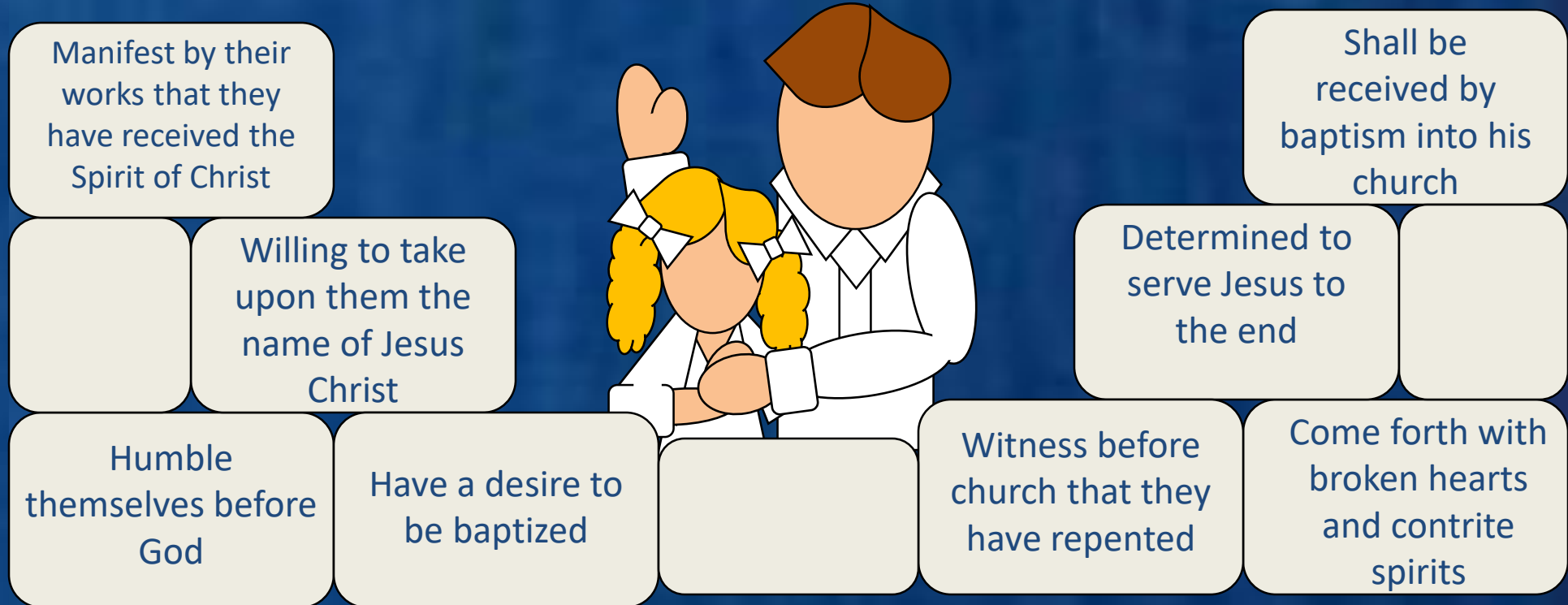


“And their little children need no repentance, neither baptism. Behold, baptism is unto repentance to the fulfilling the commandments unto the remission of sins.  
Moroni 8:11

See [Moroni 8:5-26](#)



# Requirements of Baptism



# Before Baptism

The bishop or an assigned counselor conducts interviews for the baptism and confirmation of 8-year-old children who are members of record and 8-year-old children who are not members of record but have at least one parent or guardian who is a member.

Full-time missionaries interview converts for baptism and confirmation.

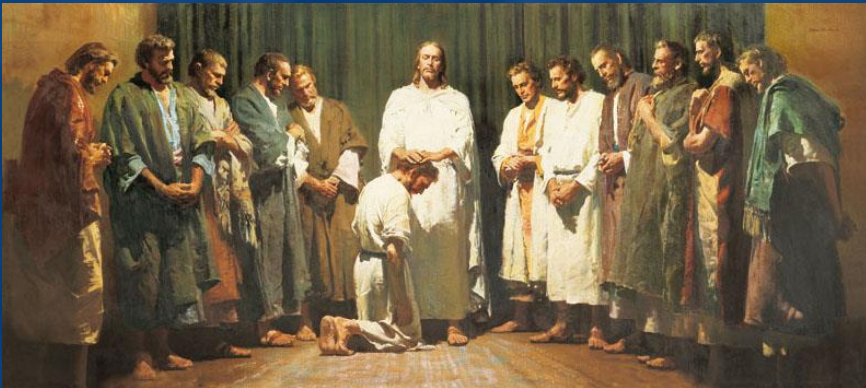


# Authority

The person who is called of God has the authority of Jesus Christ to baptize



The priesthood is the power and authority of God. It has always existed and will continue to exist without end.



In mortality, the priesthood is the power and authority that God gives to man to act in all things necessary for the salvation of God's children. The blessings of the priesthood are available to all who receive the gospel.

Handbook 2:1

“This high priesthood being after the order of his Son, which order was from the foundation of the world; or in other words, being without beginning of days or end of years, being prepared from eternity to all eternity, according to his foreknowledge of all things—

“Now they were ordained after this manner—being called with a holy calling, and ordained with a holy ordinance, and taking upon them the high priesthood of the holy order, which calling, and ordinance, and high priesthood, is without beginning or end—”

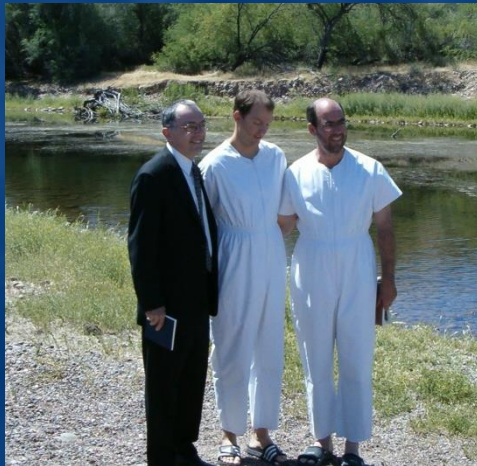
Alma 13:7-8



# The Witnesses of Baptism

Two priests or Melchizedek Priesthood holders witness each baptism to make sure it is performed properly.

The baptism must be repeated if the words are not spoken exactly as given in Doctrine and Covenants 20:73 or if part of the person's body or clothing is not immersed completely.



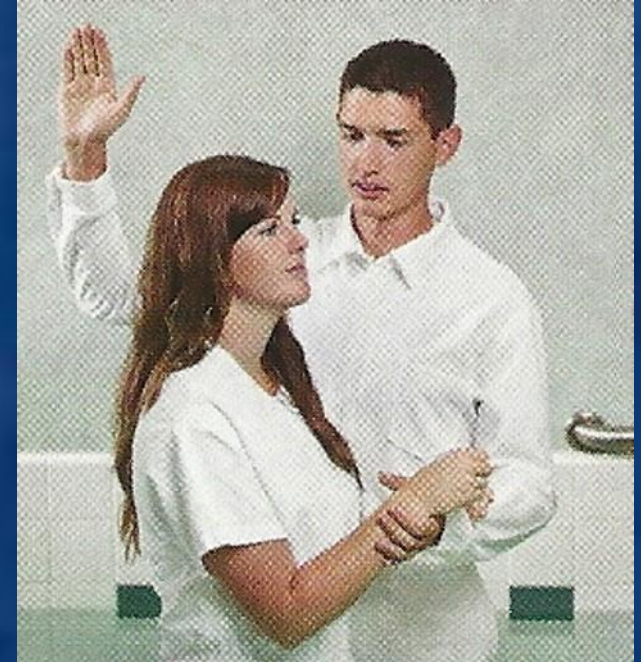
Under the direction of the presiding authority, a priest or Melchizedek Priesthood holder may perform the ordinance of baptism...

# By Immersion

The Person being baptized:

1. Stands in the water with the person to be baptized.
  2. Holds the person's right wrist with his left hand (for convenience and safety); the person who is being baptized holds the priesthood holder's left wrist with his or her left hand.
  3. Raises his right arm to the square.
  4. States the person's full name and says, "Having been commissioned of Jesus Christ, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen" (D&C 20:73).
  5. Has the person hold his or her nose with the right hand (for convenience); then the priesthood holder places his right hand high on the person's back and immerses the person completely, including the person's clothing.
  6. Helps the person come up out of the water.
- Convert baptisms are usually performed by a priesthood holder in the ward or by one of the missionaries who taught the person. A convert may also request that another qualified member perform the baptism.

Handbook 20.3.8





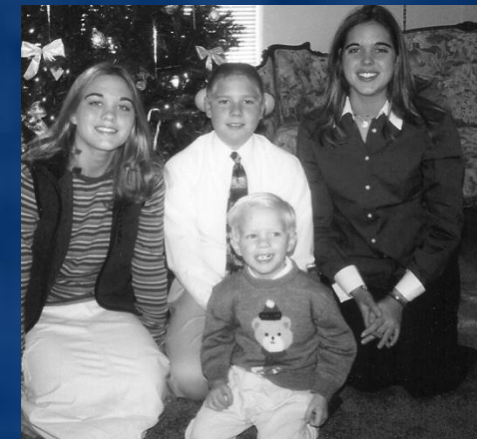
# After Baptism

Duties of the members:

By baptism we enter into a solemn covenant with God. We must, therefore, learn to know our duties as baptized members of the church

“Be kindly affectionate, one towards another;  
that the fathers should be kind to their children,  
husbands to their wives,  
masters to their slave, or servants,  
children obedient to their parents,  
wives to their husbands,  
and slaves or servants to their masters:”

Joseph Smith



# The Sacrament

Bread and Wine—the emblems:

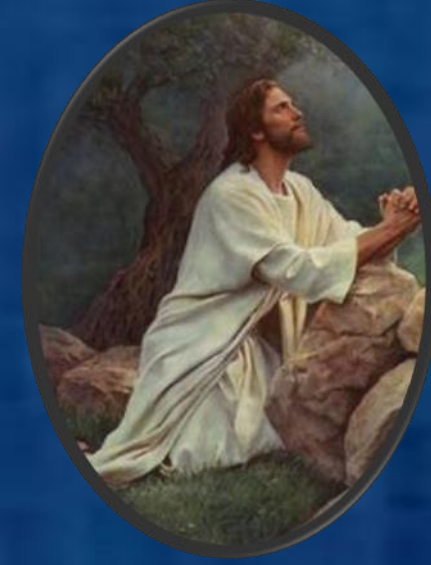
Bread is the proper emblem of the spiritual food we receive in the Sacrament.

“Wine” is here, used as a synonym for the *Cup*.  
(see Matthew 26:27)

The essential part of the Sacrament is that those who partake of it receive broken bread and drink of the cup, in remembrance of the broken body and spilt blood of the Redeemer.

Both must be blessed, and both must be received by the communicants.

Smith and Sjodahl

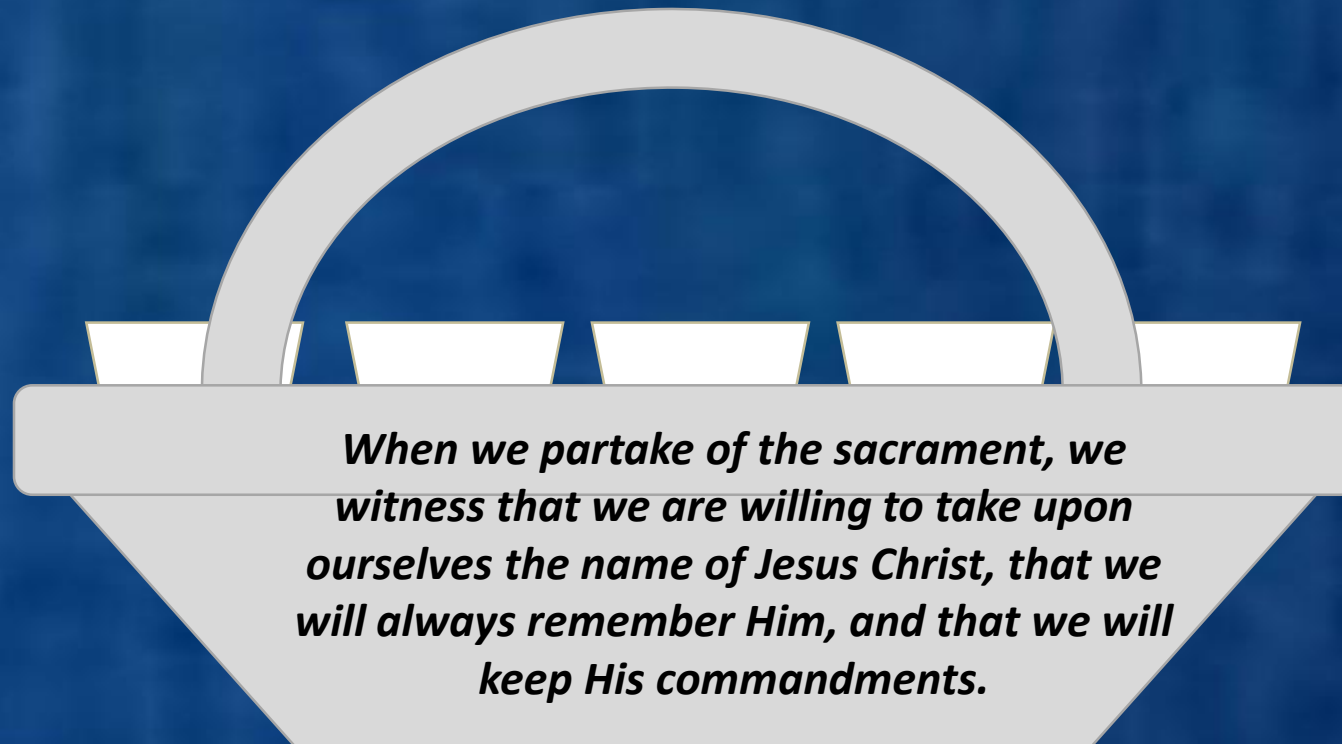


“The one thing that would make for the safety of every man and woman would be to appear at the sacrament table every Sabbath day. We would not get very far away in one week—not so far away that, by the process of self-investigation, we could not rectify the wrongs we may have done. ... The road to the sacrament table is the path of safety for Latter-day Saints”

Elder Melvin J. Ballard



# Partaking





# Always Remember Him



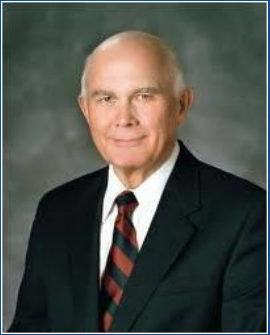
“We should first put in place the things that make it possible to always remember Him—frequent prayer and scripture study, thoughtful study of apostolic teachings, weekly preparation to partake of the sacrament worthily, Sunday worship, and recording and remembering what the Spirit and experience teach us about discipleship.

“Other things may come to your mind particularly suited to you at this point in your life. ...

“... I can attest that over time our desire and capacity to always remember and follow the Savior will grow. We should patiently work toward that end and pray always for the discernment and divine help we need”

Elder D. Todd Christofferson





# Remission of Sins

“The renewal of our covenants by partaking of the sacrament should also be preceded by repentance, so we come to that sacred ordinance with a broken heart and a contrite spirit...Then, as we renew our baptismal covenants and affirm that we will “always remember him’ the Lord will renew the promised remission of our sins, under the conditions and at the time he chooses...”

Dallin H. Oaks



“You receive great blessings when you keep the baptismal covenant. As you renew it, the Lord renews the promised remission of your sins. Cleansed from sin, you are able to ‘always have his Spirit to be with [you]’ (D&C 20:77). The Spirit’s constant companionship is one of the greatest gifts you can receive in mortality. The Spirit will guide you in the paths of righteousness and peace, leading you to eternal life with your Father in Heaven and Jesus Christ.”

*True to the Faith*



# Keeping Records of Members

The priesthood holders in the early Church were instructed to record the names of people who had joined the Church.

They kept these names in a book.

The names of those who fell away from the Church were removed from the book.

In addition, Church members who moved from one location to another were to take a certificate of their membership with them to give to their new priesthood leaders.

In our day, Church leaders continue to keep accurate membership records, but the methods of doing so are more efficient.





Sources:

Videos:

**Same Jersey (5:01)**

**Partake of the Sacrament (1:48)**

**Always Remember Him (5:27)**

**Sacrament Worship (1:31)**



*History of the Church, 1:61*

Lucy Mack Smith, *History of Joseph Smith by His Mother*, ed. Preston Nibley [1958], 168; see also *History of the Church, 1:79*.

Joseph Smith *History of the Church*, Vol. II, p. 263

Joseph Fielding Smith *Doctrines of Salvation, 2:50*; see also Moroni 8:5–26).

Elder Melvin J. Ballard (in Bryant S. Hinckley, *Sermons and Missionary Services of Melvin Joseph Ballard* [1949], 151).

Hyrum M. Smith and Janne M. Sjodahl *Commentary* pg. 111

Elder D. Todd Christofferson (“To Always Remember Him,” *Ensign*, Apr. 2011, 51).

(*True to the Faith: A Gospel Reference* [2004], 148).

Dallin H. Oaks *Ensign* Nov 1996

### **Priesthood Keys**

Priesthood keys are the authority God has given to priesthood leaders to direct, control, and govern the use of His priesthood on earth. The exercise of priesthood authority is governed by those who hold its keys (see D&C 65:2; 81:2; 124:123). Those who hold priesthood keys have the right to preside over and direct the Church within a jurisdiction. Jesus Christ holds all the keys of the priesthood pertaining to His Church. He has conferred upon each of His Apostles all the keys that pertain to the kingdom of God on earth. The senior living Apostle, the President of the Church, is the only person on earth authorized to exercise all priesthood keys (see D&C 43:1–4; 81:2; 107:64–67, 91–92; 132:7). Handbook 2.1.1

**Water or Wine:** “For, behold, I say unto you, that it mattereth not what ye shall eat or what ye shall drink when ye partake of the sacrament, if it so be that ye do it with an eye single to my glory—remembering unto the Father my body which was laid down for you, and my blood which was shed for the remission of your sins.”

D&C 27:2

In 1833 Joseph Smith received the revelation known as the Word of Wisdom, part of which states that alcohol consumption is harmful to a person's health and well-being. Initially the Word of Wisdom was treated simply as counsel, and the early saints would still drink alcohol on occasion. During the late 19th century, church leaders slowly started to take the Word of Wisdom as a commandment. This increased respect for the Word of Wisdom, combined with the scripture in Doctrine and Covenants 27:2. The practice was officially adopted church-wide in 1912.

Occasionally circumstances permit various other food substitutes as well. Crackers and tortillas are sometimes used in outdoor, rugged settings, such as church sponsored Boy Scout camping trips. The Church's official policy, however, is that Boy Scout troops not camp or hike on Sundays. Stories abound of WWII impoverished European congregations using potato slices. In such situations, the word "bread" (in English) is typically used in the prayers.

Wikipedia

### **History of administration of the sacrament:**

Weekly administration of the sacrament did not begin until sometime in the 1850s. There is no known revelation commanding the weekly practice to have been adopted, but rather the custom developed and spread throughout the church over time.

Until the late 1890s or early 20th century, the entire congregation generally knelt during the sacramental prayers, consistent with D&C 20:76 and Moroni 4:2. More recent direction from church leaders only requires that the individual giving the prayer kneel.

Deacons and teachers didn't originally take part in the preparing or passing of the sacrament, which seems to have been first encouraged in 1898 and was widely implemented between the 1920s or 1930s.

Previous reluctance to involve them was probably due to the following verse from the LDS Doctrine and Covenants:

But neither teachers nor deacons have authority to baptize, administer the sacrament, or lay on hands. (Doctrine and Covenants 20:58, LDS edition) The term administer has since been interpreted as reading the sacrament prayer, which deacons and teachers still do not have the authority to do. Individual water cups, instead of drinking from a common cup, were introduced in 1911.

Passing the sacrament first to the presiding church authority was emphasized in 1946. Wikipedia

### **Granite Vault Records for the Church:**

The world's largest collection of genealogical records is housed in a secure vault located in the mountains near Salt Lake City, Utah. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints built the Granite Mountain Records Vault in 1965 to preserve and protect records of importance to the Church, including its vast collection of family history microfilms. For security reasons, there is no public access to the Granite Mountain Records Vault.

The vault safeguards more than 3.5 billion images on microfilm, microfiche, and digital media. Currently, the Church is in the process of digitizing the microfilms and making those digital records available through the FamilySearch.org website

<http://www.mormonnewsroom.org/article/granite-mountain-records-vault>