

Article of Faith 4

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We believe that the first principles and ordinances of the Gospel are: first, Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; second, Repentance; third, Baptism by immersion for the remission of sins; fourth, Laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost.

There are four main parts to this:

1. Faith in Jesus Christ
2. Repentance
3. Baptism by immersion
4. Gift of the Holy Ghost

They all kinda make sense if you think about them, and they seem to go in order. I'm not just saying they belong together, they actually go in the order they're listed. Some believe there's an unofficial fifth thing we have to do in order to get back home to God. That fifth item is Enduring to the End. For the longest time, Endure to the End was the unofficial catchphrase as it were of the church. Now I think that's changed to stay on the covenant path.

Acts 4:10-12 tells us that Jesus is the only way we can be saved. It's through faith on Him that leads us to salvation. Don't forget, it was Jesus that said:

... I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.¹

After Faith comes Repentance. It makes sense that once we have faith in Christ that we would want to repent of our sins. For it is "with his stripes we are healed."² Christ suffered for our sins in the Garden of Gethsemane. We owe Him our lives, literally. So why wouldn't we want to repent of our sins? Repentance is a lifelong commitment. It's not a one and done thing.

Next up is baptism. But it's not just baptism. It's specified in the LDS church that it's by immersion. Some churches sprinkle, other churches dunk. I'm not sure if there's a right or wrong way about it. Shouldn't it matter where your heart is at the moment you get baptized? I mean, that's got to count for

¹John 14:6

²Isaiah 53:5 - But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

something. In Mosiah 18 we learn about Alma baptizing Helam. Some think Alma baptized himself with Helam as they both went into the water. But others say this is not the case. I for one am not sure what's going on there. We wash our sins away with baptism.

With those three steps accomplished, we get the Gift of the Holy Ghost. Some call this a baptism of fire.³ John baptized with water, Christ baptized with the Holy Ghost. A good example of the Holy Ghost is found in Acts 2 with the Day of Pentecost. People were filled with the Holy Ghost and heard each other speak in their own tongue.

Each of these is a stepping stone to achieve salvation and eternal life with God.

³Luke 3:15-18