

GENERAL OUTLINE

WELCOME IN CHRIST'S NAME

INVOCATION

I'm sorry I have to do this so much as a Lecture Class because I really don't like to & I'm really not that Smart!

- I have Been Assigned a really BROAD Topic

A SHORT OVERVIEW "WHAT IS PRIESTHOOD"

- And do this in 40 Minutes!

You see Charles Fry's Definition of Priesthood

Priesthood is the POWER OF GOD operating in men chosen of him, ordained and set apart according to the provisions of his law, for the ministering of his gospel of salvation to mankind, in word and in ordinance. This Priesthood or Power carries with it Authority to act in Christ's stead, by faith in him, in any and all matters which are expedient according to his will.

Elder Charles Fry
Chapter 1, Page 5
The Nature of Priesthood
Pub: Herald House
1950

I think that it is safe to say that God & Christ has always had some sort of Priesthood from the beginning, from the creation of mankind Spiritually.

We know that there was (and is) a church in the previous life called the "Church of the First Born" Gen 9:22-23 D&C Sec 76:7i-7k

- We know that one of the men of Authority holding the office of "Son of the Morning" fell and became the Devil Isa. 14:12

Once Adam fell from grace with God by sin and was kicked out of the Garden
PRIESTHOOD was established on the earth **I HAVE GIVEN YOU SCRIPTURES ON
THEIR HANDOUTS REFLECTING THE ESTABLISHING OF THE PRIESTHOOD**

Prophecy of Ordination Gen 6:7-8 Now this same priesthood which was in the beginning, shall be in the end of the world also. Now this prophecy Adam spake, as he was moved upon by the Holy Ghost.

Ordination Gen 6:68-70 And the Spirit of God descended upon him, and thus he was born of the Spirit, and became quickened in the inner man. And he heard a voice out of heaven, saying, Thou art baptized with fire and with the Holy Ghost; this is the record of the Father and the Son, from henceforth and forever; And thou art after the order of him who was without beginning of days or end of years, from all eternity to all eternity.

Priesthood not needed in Garden because there were only two of them and they walked and talked with God.

Priesthood is FOREVER – Without beginning of Days or End of Years – Continues and Abideth FOREVER **I HAVE GIVEN YOU A QUOTE FROM SEC 83.**
It is w/o beginning because it is from God and he is ETERNAL and it will abide for ever because he has so ordained it!

[Sec 83:2f-3a] and from Noah till Enoch, through the lineage of their fathers; and from Enoch to Abel, who was slain by the conspiracy of his brother; who received the priesthood by the commandments of God, by the hand of his father Adam, who was the first man; which priesthood continueth in the church of God in all generations, and is without beginning of days or end of years which priesthood continueth in the church of God in all generations, and is without beginning of days or end of years. And the Lord confirmed a priesthood also upon Aaron and his seed throughout all their generations, which priesthood also continueth and abideth forever, with the priesthood which is after the holiest order of God.

Priesthood was established and handed down by THE COMMANDMENT OF GOD and GOD IS without beginning of days or End of Years – Therefore – Priesthood is without beginning of days or End of Years!

Tell of Brother Balmer

Tell of Christ calling Matthew personally weeks before he died – My need to explain to him the eternal nature of Priesthood

True Priesthood Comes from Christ – Not from any Man **SKIP THIS SCRIPTURE**

Heb 7:3 For this Melchizedek was ordained a priest after the order of the Son of God, which order was without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life. And all those who are ordained unto this priesthood are made like unto the Son of God, abiding a priest continually.

He gives the Power/Authority – He Takes it away

Not be the WILL of man **READ this Scripture**

Gen 14:26-29 Now Melchizedek was a man of faith, who wrought righteousness; and when a child he feared God, and stopped the mouths of lions, and quenched the violence of fire. And thus, having been approved of God, he was ordained an high priest after the order of the covenant which God made with Enoch, It being after the order of the Son of God; which order came, not by man, nor the will of man; neither by father nor mother; neither by beginning of days nor end of years; but of God; And it was delivered unto men by the calling of his own voice, according to his own will, unto as many as believed on his name.

It is scary to hear of a Priesthood call where a candidate or a Presiding Elder uses for an experience “**I had a good feeling and thought that it was just now a good time.**”

Where is GOD in this calling?

Tell of Roy Schaefer’s experience with my call to Teacher

I CONFESS THAT IN MY 53 YEARS IN THE PRIESTHOOD, I HAVE SEEN A NUMBER OF MAN MADE PRIESTHOOD CALLS.

**THESE HAVE ALWAYS EITHER
AMOUNTED TO NON EFFECT**

OR

HAVE BEEN DETRIMENTAL TO THE WORK

I am often concerned when I hear a man say that he had wanted to be an Elder, or an Apostle from my youth on. It concerns me that the servant is being ambitious in the face of the Creator.

[Mark 10:43-44] But it shall not be so among you; but whosoever will be great among you, shall be servant of all. **And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all.**

There is NO ROOM in the Priesthood for the ambitious!

John the Baptist explained it well: **Read this Scripture**

[John 3:30-32] He who hath the bride, is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice; this my joy therefore is fulfilled. **He must increase, but I must decrease.** He who cometh from above is above all; he who is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth; he who cometh from heaven is above all. And what he hath seen and heard, that he testifieth; and but few men receive his testimony.

Men are Chosen by Christ – They have not Chosen Him

John 15:16 **Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you,** and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit; and that your fruit should remain; that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

[Heb 5:4-6] **And no man taketh this honor unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron.** So also Christ glorified not himself to be made a high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, today have I begotten thee. As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

I have always been impressed with Brother Oakman’s experience wherein he was concerned whether his boss was pleased with his work and whether he had a futher.

THE LORD would not answer until he humbled himself and tuned his attention to the flock and not himself

Effective Priesthood are Continually being fed by the Holy Ghost
Christ Explained this by the example of him being the Vine and the Priesthood being the Branches.

John 15:5-10 **I am the vine, ye are the branches**. He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit; **for without me ye can do nothing**. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. **If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit**; so shall ye be my disciples. As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you; continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

[Sec 43:4a-4c] Again I say, hearken ye elders of my church whom I have appointed: **ye are not sent forth to be taught, but to teach the children of men the things which I have put into your hands by the power of my Spirit; and ye are to be taught from on high**.

In a recent experience I was told:

I do not truly know the Holy Ghost

AND

No one that I know truly knows the Holy Ghost

AND

I could not Truly know the Savior except by the Holy Ghost

A COUPLE SCRIPTURES STOOD OUT TO ME

[3 Ne 7:22] And they (his disciples) understood me not that I said they shall hear my voice; and they understood me not **that the Gentiles should not at any time hear my voice; that I should not manifest myself unto them, save it were by the Holy Ghost.**

Alma sent forth the men that were full of the Spirit

[Alma 12:4-5] For they were men of a sound understanding, and they had searched the scriptures diligently, that they might know the word of God. But this is not all: they had given themselves to much prayer, and fasting, therefore they had the **spirit of prophecy, and the spirit of revelation**, and when they taught, **they taught with power and authority**, even as with the power and authority of God.

Prospective Priesthood should NEVER accept a Priesthood Call until they have a personal testimony of the divine nature of that call.

The Devil will always try to discourage and destroy one who is trying to serve. If you do not have a personal testimony – HE WINS

THE LORD CAME TO AARON AND TOLD HIM TO GO TO MOSES IN THE WILDERNESS TO THE MOUNT OF GOD – AARON HAD A PERSONAL TESTIMONY!

[Exo 4:27-30] **And the Lord said unto Aaron, Go into the wilderness to meet Moses,** and he went and met him, in the mount of God; in the mount where God appeared unto him; and Aaron kissed him. And Moses told Aaron all the words of the Lord who had sent him, and all the signs which he had commanded him. And Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the children of Israel; And Aaron spake all the words which the Lord had spoken unto Moses, and did the signs in the sight of the people.

THE LORD TAUGHT HIS DISCIPLES WHAT THEY WERE TO TEACH – THE DISCIPLES KNEW THEY WERE CALLED WHAT THEIR CALLING WAS

[Mat 7:1] **Now these are the words which Jesus taught his disciples that they should say unto the people.....**

[Mat 7:9] Go ye into the world, saying unto all, Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come nigh unto you.

[Mat 7:10] And the mysteries of the kingdom ye shall keep within yourselves; for it is not meet to give that which is holy unto the dogs; neither cast ye your pearls unto swine, lest they trample them under their feet.

[Mat 7:11] For the world cannot receive that which ye yourselves, are not able to bear; wherefore ye shall not give your pearls unto them, lest they turn again and rend you.

HE TOLD THEM THAT THOSE WHO SERVED WITHOUT A TESTIMONY WOULD BE FAKING IT AND WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE

[Mat 7:12] Say unto them, Ask of God; ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

[Mat 7:13] For every one that asketh, receiveth; and he that seeketh, findeth; and unto him that knocketh, it shall be opened.....

[Mat 7:30] Verily I say unto you, it is **not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, that shall enter unto the kingdom of heaven;** but he that doeth the will of my Father who is in heaven.

[Mat 7:31] For the day soon cometh, that men shall come before me to judgment, to be judged according to their works.

[Mat 7:32] **And many will say unto me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name; and in thy name cast out devils; and in thy name done many wonderful works?**

[Mat 7:33] And then will I say, Ye never knew me; depart from me ye that work iniquity.

THEREFORE HE LIKENED \ THOSE WHO KNOCKED AND ASKED TO ONE WHO BUILT HIS HOUSE ON A ROCK

[Mat 7:34] Therefore, whosoever heareth these sayings of mine and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, who built his house upon a rock, and the rains descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house, and it fell not; for it was founded upon a rock.

[Mat 7:35] And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, who built his house upon the sand; and the rains descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house, and it fell; and great was the fall of it.

Apostle Paul Explains how Priesthood are to conduct themselves (2nd Chapter of 1st Thessalonians)

- Self Sacrificing – Willing to Suffer for the Flock
- Bold in speaking the Gosples of Christ even if there is contention
- Their exhortation was not of deceit, nor of uncleanness, nor in guile
 - But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, **which trieth our hearts.**
- Did not use flattering words
- Did not seek Glory of me
- **This scripture goes on with more and more instruction – I hope the Priesthood will and has read it. It is before you.**

Jesus and the Priesthood on the Earth

We all agree that Jesus Is/Was/Always will be the SON OF GOD

Jesus said REPEATEDLY, while he was on the earth that he was the SON OF MAN!

He is called the “Son of Man” **213** times in the Inspired Version.

An example of when Jesus calls himself the “Son of Man” is:

Just point out that they have an example in the hand-out of a time that Christ called himself the “THE SON OF MAN”

[Mat 20:16-17] And Jesus, going up to Jerusalem, took the twelve disciples apart in the way, and said unto them, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem, and the **Son of Man** shall be betrayed unto the chief priests, and unto the Scribes, and they shall condemn him to death; and shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify. And the third day he shall rise again.

Apostle Paul discusses the humanity of the Divine Christ with the Hebrews

READ THIS ONE

[Heb 5:5-10] So also Christ glorified not himself to be made a high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, today have I begotten thee. As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

Paul then editorializes:

(Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared; though he were a son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered.) And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him; Called of God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST AWESOME SCRIPTURES WE

When he came to the earth, Jesus was the CHIEF HIGH PRIEST of the earthly Priesthood (Heb 4 and 5)

He then began to instruct his Priesthood what and how to Teach (Matt 13)

He ended that conversation of parables with these words:

Mat 13:52-53 Then Jesus said unto them, **Have ye understood** all these things? They say unto him, Yea, Lord. Then said he unto them, **Every scribe well instructed in the things of the kingdom of heaven, is like unto a householder; a man, therefore, which bringeth forth out of his treasure that which is new and old.**

[Mat 10:24] **What I tell you in darkness, preach ye in light; and what ye hear in the ear, preach ye upon the housetops.**

And many other lessons equally important like the **Sermon on the Mount** which included the words:

[Mat 7:12] **Say unto them, Ask of God; ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.**

Jesus gave them Authority and instructions to do GREATER works than he had done

[John 14:12-15] Verily, verily, I say unto you, **He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do;** because I go unto my Father. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it. If ye love me, keep my commandments.

They were to do that by the POWER of the HOLY GHOST

[John 14:16-17] **And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever;** Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him; **but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.**

[John 14:25-26] These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you. But the **Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance,** whatsoever I have said unto you.

Jesus Showed them that they could do these things by the Holy Ghost because as the “SON OF MAN” he did everything that he did by the POWER of the HOLY GHOST:

- Christ gave commandments to Disciples by Holy Ghost Acts 1:2
- John the Baptist said that Christ was filled with the fullness of the “Spirit” without measure John 3:31-34
- He did good and healed by the Holy Ghost Acts 10:38
- He was led through his temptations by the Holy Ghost Luke 4:1-13
- Christ offered himself through the “Spirit” to God Heb 9:13-14
- The resurrection occurred through power of “Spirit” 2Nep 1:73-74

He could tell the Priesthood: “These things you have seen me do, ye go do GREATER” because he had done everything that he had done through the Holy Ghost – the same power that they were to exercise.

As the Men of Power Grew, They learned, that this lesson was true

[Phil 4:11] Not that I speak in respect of want; for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.

[Phil 4:12] I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound; everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

[Phil 4:13] **I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.**

[Alma 14:92] Yea, I know that I am nothing; as to my strength, I am weak; therefore I will not boast of myself, **but I will boast of my God; for in his strength I can do all things;** yea, behold, many mighty miracles we have wrought in this land, for which we will praise his name for ever.

TELL THE STORY OF MEETING THE DEVIL AT DAVID COCHRAN’S

He call many men and they serve the SAME GOD from many different PERSPECTIVES

EXAMPLES – THE GOSPLE WRITERS –

THEY ALL WROTE OF THE SAME CHRIST

THEY ALL COMPLIMENT THE OTHER WRITERS (they do not disagree with the others)

THEY PRESENT HIM FROM DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES:

MATTHEW PRESENTS HIM MORE AS THE KING OF KINGS

MARK PRESENTS HIM MORE AS A SERVANT

LUKE (THE PHYSICIAN) PRESENTS MORE AS GOD IN THE FLESH

JOHN PRESENTS HIM MORE AS GOD

All of these perspectives are correct and meaningful!

All of these perspectives represent a different PERSPECTIVE

ALL OF THESE PERSPECTIVES REPRESENT CHRIST!

Thus varied Priesthood can represent Christ from varied CORRECT perspective can appeal successfully to the appropriate portions of the flock.

MATTHEW INITALLY TO THE JEWS

MARK TO THE GENTILES IN ANTIOCH AND GREECE

LUKE TO ROME

JOHN TO THE PRIESTHOOD

Jesus required FULL DEVOTION of his Priesthood:

[Luke 9:57-62] And it came to pass, as they went in the way, a certain man said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. And Jesus said unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man hath not where to lay his head. **And he said unto another, Follow me.** But he said, Lord, suffer me **first to go and bury my father.** Jesus said unto him, **Let the dead bury their dead;** but go thou and preach the kingdom of God. **And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house.** And Jesus said unto him, **No man having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.**

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE FOLLOWING SCRIPTURE WAS GIVEN TO THE APOSTLES

[Mat 10:32-34] **He who loveth father and mother more than me, is not worthy of me;** and **he who loveth son or daughter more than me, is not worthy of me.** And **he who taketh not his cross and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.** **He who seeketh to save his life shall lose it; and he who loseth his life for my sake shall find it.**

Faithful Responsive Priesthood have a AWESOME promise

PLEASE NOTE ALL OF THE FABULOUS PROMISES GIVEN IN SEC 83:6 (I HAVE COPIED SOME OF THEM IN YOUR HAND-OUT) AND OUR LORD FOLLOWED THEM UP WITH:[Sec 83:6a-6h].....Therefore, all that my Father hath shall be given unto him; and this is according to the oath and covenant which belongeth to the priesthood. Therefore, all those who receive the priesthood receive this oath and covenant of my Father, **which he cannot break,** neither can it be moved; **but whoso breaketh this covenant, after he hath received it, and altogether turneth therefrom, shall not have forgiveness of sins in this world nor in the world to come.**

There is a high standard for the Priesthood – and – a great reward!

- That is why it is so important that every prospective Priesthood member have his own testimony
- It is equally important that he have unequalled dedication and conviction
- The Lord Requires and Expects it of him

The Gift of Priesthood can and has been given and taken from his people when they repent or dwindled in unbelief.

1. Christ established the Melchisdec Priesthood with the ordination of Adam.

2. Christ removed the Melchisdec Priesthood apparently from the house of Israel while they were in bondage in Egypt because he had to return it to MOSES thru Jethro (His Father-in-Law) and Jethro's lineage did not come from Adam.

No need to read this scripture, just point out that Jethro's lineage leads back to Esaias who was ordained under the hand of God who lived in the days of Abraham.

I have included the scripture in your hand-out

- a. [Sec 83:2a-2d] Verily, this is the word of the Lord, that the city New Jerusalem shall be built by the gathering of the Saints, beginning at this place, even the place of the temple, which temple shall be reared in this generation; for verily, this generation shall not all pass away until an house shall be built unto the Lord, and a cloud shall rest upon it, which cloud shall be even the glory of the Lord, which shall fill the house. And the sons of **Moses**, according to the holy priesthood, which he received under the hand of his father-in-law, Jethro; and Jethro received it under the hand of Caleb; and Caleb received it under the hand of Elihu; and Elihu under the hand of Jeremy; and Jeremy under he hand of Gad; and Gad under the hand of Esaias; and Esaias received it under the hand of God;
3. Christ established the Aaronic Priesthood through Moses onto Aaron in the wilderness before Moses returned to Egypt
 4. Christ removed the Melchisdec Priesthood all together with the death of Moses leaving the Aaronic Priesthood to serve Israel alone for about 1450 years.
 5. Christ returned the Melchisdec Priesthood (as well as the Apostles) and John the Baptist returned the **pure** Aaronic Priesthood in the days of Christ.
 6. Then all Priesthood was taken from the earth during the dark ages.
 7. John the Baptist returned the Aaronic Priesthood to the Earth in 1829 at the pleasure of Christ, and the direction of Peter, James, and John upon Joseph and Oliver
 8. Peter, James, and John returned the Melchisdec Priesthood upon Joseph and Oliver in 1830 **stating that it would never again be removed from the earth.**
 9. Numerous times in the Book of Mormon

Christ prayed for his Priesthood while he was on the earth, and we are numbered among that priesthood in this dispensation. I feel that his prayer is appropriate on our behalf today:

John 17:1 These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that they Son also may glorify thee;

John 17:2 As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.

John 17:3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

John 17:4 I have glorified thee on the earth; I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.

John 17:5 And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.

John 17:6 I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world; thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word.

John 17:7 Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee.

John 17:8 For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me.

John 17:9 I pray for them; I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine.

John 17:10 And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them.

John 17:11 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.

John 17:12 While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name; those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

John 17:13 And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves.

John 17:14 I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

John 17:15 I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

John 17:16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth.

John 17:18 As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.

John 17:19 And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.

John 17:20 Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;

John 17:21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us; that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

John 17:22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one;

John 17:23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

John 17:24 Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me; for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

John 17:25 O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee; but I have known that thou hast sent me.

John 17:26 And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it; that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.

Brethren, Great men have written great works on the subject of the nature of Priesthood.

This discourse is so simple an overview that it is hardly brushing the surface of the subject.

Suffice it to be said, your calls are eternal, divine in nature, rooted in divine power, and necessarily governed by full accountability. All power is given to those holding this responsibility who are themselves wholly responsive to the Holy Ghost within them.

Mor 10:20 For if there be one among you that doeth good, he shall work by the power and gifts of God.