

Signs

Signs are events or experiences that demonstrate the power of God. They are often miraculous. They identify and announce great events, such as the Savior's birth, death, and Second Coming. They remind us of covenants the Lord has made with us. Signs may also bear witness of a divine calling or indicate the Lord's disapproval.

Some people claim that they would believe in God or His work if they were able to receive a sign. But the Lord has said, "Faith cometh not by signs, but signs follow those that believe" (D&C 63:9). Such signs are given to those who are faithful and obedient in order to strengthen them in their faith.

Additional references: Matthew 12:38–39; Mark 13:22–27; Luke 2:8–17; Alma 30:43–52; Helaman 14; 3 Nephi 1:13–21; 8:2–25; Ether 12:6; D&C 63:7–12

See also Faith; Obedience; Second Coming of Jesus Christ

Sin

When we willfully disobey God's commandments, we commit sin. We also commit sin when we fail to act righteously despite our knowledge of the truth (see James 4:17).

The Lord has said that He "cannot look upon sin with the least degree of allowance" (D&C 1:31). The result of sin is the withdrawal of the Holy Ghost and, in eternity, being unable to dwell in the presence of our Heavenly Father, for "no unclean thing can dwell with God" (1 Nephi 10:21).

Each of us has broken commandments or failed to act according to our knowledge of the truth. The Apostle John taught: "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, [Jesus Christ] is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from

Smith, Joseph Jr.

all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:8–9). Through the Atonement of Jesus Christ, we can repent and be forgiven of our sins.

Additional references: Romans 3:23; 6:23; Alma 5:41–42; 11:37; Helaman 5:10–11; D&C 82:1–3; 88:34–35

See also Atonement of Jesus Christ; Death, Spiritual; Forgiveness; Justice; Mercy; Obedience; Repentance; Temptation

Smith, Joseph Jr. (*See* Joseph Smith)

Soul

The term *soul* is used in two ways in the scriptures. First, a spirit that is united with a physical body, whether in mortality or after resurrection, is called a soul (see D&C 88:15–16). Second, our spirits are sometimes called souls (see Alma 40:15–18; Abraham 3:23).

See also Plan of Salvation; Resurrection; Spirit

Spirit

You are a spirit child of Heavenly Father, and you existed as a spirit before you were born on the earth. During your life on the earth, your spirit is housed in your physical body, which was born of mortal parents.

From the scriptures, we learn about the nature of spirits. We learn that “all spirit is matter, but it is more fine or pure, and can only be discerned by purer eyes” (D&C 131:7). We read that “the spirit of man [is] in the likeness of his person, as also the spirit of the beast, and every other creature which God has created” (D&C 77:2; see also Ether 3:7–16).

The scriptures also teach that at the time of physical death, the spirit does not die. It separates from the body and lives in the postmortal spirit world. At the time of resurrection, the spirit is reunited with the body, “never to be divided; thus the whole becoming spiritual and immortal” (Alma 11:45).