

code words, way, path, and walk, LeGrand Baker

Brother Nibley has pointed out that one of the most universal doctrines of ancient religions is the doctrine of the two ways. To repent means to turn, to stop going one way, turn and go the other. One can easily see why such a doctrine should have an appeal, first is that is a general truth, secondly, it is very simple and can have whatever meaning one wishes to attach to it. In the scriptures, however, it is simple only because it is explicit, and its truth is not in the universal but in the particular.

Almost every instance of “walk” and every instance of “walked” and “walking” in the book of Mormon is about keeping God’s commandments rather than about the moving of one’s feet.

What follows is only a list of scriptures organized in this order:

- * Definition of the straightness of the path
- * The Way is the person of Christ.
- * Christ is the Light in which one must walk along the way.
- * The Way is the Temple
- * The Way is the story of the Plan from the beginning.
- * The Way is the ordinances.
- * The ordinances are the way for the dead as well as for the living.
- * The way is love, and the law of consecration which is functional charity.
- * The way is truth. That same truth which embraces and is embraced by truth (D&C 88 40)
- * As an outstretched hand is the symbol of hope, so beautiful feet are a symbol of the way of righteousness.
- * Conclusion

DEFINITION OF THE STRAIGHTNESS OF THE PATH

For God doth not **walk** in crooked **paths**, neither doth he turn to the right hand nor to the **left**, neither doth he vary from that which he hath said, therefore his

paths are **straight**, and his course is one eternal round. (D&C 3:2)

I perceive that it has been made known unto you, by the testimony of his word, that he cannot **walk** in crooked **paths**; neither doth he vary from that which he hath said; neither hath he a shadow of turning from the right to the **left**, or from that which is right to that which is wrong; therefore, his course is one eternal round. (Alma 7:20)

And it may suffice if I only say they are preserved for a wise purpose, which purpose is known unto God; for he doth counsel in wisdom over all his works, and his **paths** are **straight**, and his course is one eternal round. (Alma 37:12)

The straightness of the path is not defined as the shortest distance between two points, but rather it is defined as that which does not turn to the right or to the left. There are three ways to make this kind of straight line. First: using a ruler, draw a line between two points. Second: using a compass, draw a circle around a single point. Third, using a square and a compass, create an eternal spiral within the infinite sections of a Golden Rectangle. Each way creates a line which is perfect in relation to its point(s) of reference--which does not vary to the right or the left.

The line between two points is as the straight line between one's self and the pinnacle of the temple when the garden of Eden is the temple/mountain and the tree of life is at its center/top.

The circle is the circle, of Abraham 3 and 3 Ne. 17 where the word "midst" defines the center of the circle.

The spiral is a two dimensional depiction of the movement, ever upward, ever toward the center, which is often the way one moves toward the Holy of Holies in ancient and some modern temples.

Now, the decrees of God are unalterable; therefore, the **way** is prepared that whosoever will may **walk** therein and be saved. (Alma 41:8)

THE WAY IS THE PERSON OF CHRIST.

whither I go ye know, and the **way** ye know. Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the **way**? Jesus saith unto him, I am the **way**, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. (John 14:4-6)

But because of the faith of men he has shown himself unto the world, and glorified the name of the Father, and prepared a **way** that thereby others might be partakers of the heavenly gift, that they might hope for those things which they have not seen. (Ether 12:8)

O remember, remember, my sons, the words which king Benjamin spake unto his people; yea, remember that there is no other **way** nor means whereby man can be saved, only through the atoning blood of Jesus Christ, who shall come, yea, remember that he cometh to redeem the world. (Helaman 5:9)

And moreover, I say unto you, that there shall be no other name given nor any other **way** nor means whereby salvation can come unto the children of men, only in and through the name of Christ, the Lord Omnipotent. (Mosiah 3:17)

CHRIST IS THE LIGHT IN WHICH ONE MUST WALK ALONG THE WAY.

we say that we have fellowship with him, and **walk** in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we **walk** in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. (1 John 1:6-7)

For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: **walk** as children of light: (Ephesians 5:8)

The alternative of walking in the light of Christ is to walk in darkness on broad roads which are undefined except by self will and self deception "which leadeth to the deaths (plural)."

And the mists of darkness are the temptations of the devil, which blindeth the eyes, and hardeneth the hearts of the children of men, and leadeth them **away** into **broad roads**, that they perish and are lost. (1 Nephi 12:17)

Broad is the gate, and wide the **way** that leadeth to the deaths; and many there are that go in thereat, because they receive me not, neither do they abide in my law. (D&C 132:25)

They seek not the Lord to establish his righteousness, but every man **walketh** in his own **way**, and after the image of his own God, whose image is in the likeness of the world, and whose substance is that of an idol, which waxeth old and shall perish in Babylon, even Babylon the great, which shall fall. (D&C 1:16)

And after they had tasted of the fruit they were ashamed, because of those that were scoffing at them; and they fell **away** into forbidden **paths** and were lost. (1 Nephi 8:28)

And he also saw other multitudes feeling their **way** towards that great and spacious building. And it came to pass that many were drowned in the depths of the fountain; and many were lost from his view, wandering in strange **roads**. (1 Nephi 8:31-32)

And it came to pass that when Jesus had ended these sayings he said unto his disciples: Enter ye in at the strait gate; for strait is the gate, and narrow is the **way** that leads to life, and few there be that find it; but wide is the gate, and **broad** the **way** which leads to death, and many there be that travel therein, until the night cometh, wherein no man can work. (3 Nephi 27:33)

THE WAY IS THE TEMPLE

And I will make all my mountains a **way**, and my high**ways** shall be exalted. (1 Nephi 21:11)

And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his **ways**, and we will **walk** in his **paths**; for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. (2 Nephi 12:3)

Stand, therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, having on the breastplate of righteousness, and your **feet** shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace, which I have sent mine angels to commit unto you; (D&C 27:16)

THE WAY IS THE STORY OF THE PLAN FROM THE BEGINNING.

The "paths of righteousness," in the 23rd Psalm is the WAY by which one may come unto Christ. Speaking of that, President Joseph Fielding Smith wrote that there were "ordinances" in our pre-mortal life.

During the ages in which we dwelt in the pre-mortal state we not only developed our various characteristics and showed our worthiness and ability, or the lack of it, but we were also where such progress could be observed. It is reasonable to believe that there was a Church organization there. The heavenly beings were living in a perfectly arranged society. Every person knew his place. Priesthood, without any question, had been conferred and the leaders were chosen to officiate. Ordinances pertaining to that pre-existence were required, and the love of God prevailed (*The Way to Perfection*, p.50-1).

In support of the idea that there was a church organization with enabling ordinances in the pre-mortal spirit world, President Smith quoted Ephesians 1:3-4.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without

blame before him in love: [Love, charity, the law of consecration was the key to those ordinances performed in "heavenly places in Christ." In verse 20 we learn the "heavenly places" is the throne room, the Holy of Holies, of the celestial temple, where the Father sat his Son] at his own right hand in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 1:3-21)

For he is the same yesterday, to-day, and forever; and the **way** is prepared for all men from the foundation of the world, if it so be that they repent and come unto him. (1 Nephi 10:18)

THE WAY IS THE ORDINANCES.

And this shall be our covenant--that we will **walk** in all the ordinances of the Lord. (D&C 136:4)

And then are ye in this strait and narrow **path** which leads to eternal life; yea, ye have entered in by the gate; ye have done according to the commandments of the Father and the Son; and ye have received the Holy Ghost, which witnesses of the Father and the Son, unto the fulfilling of the promise which he hath made, that if ye entered in by the **way** ye should receive. And now, my beloved brethren, after ye have gotten into this strait and narrow **path**, I would ask if all is done? Behold, I say unto you, Nay; for ye have not come thus far save it were by the word of Christ with unshaken faith in him, relying wholly upon the merits of him who is mighty to save. And now, behold, my beloved brethren, this is the **way**; and there is none other **way** nor name given under heaven whereby man can be saved in the kingdom of God. And now, behold, this is the doctrine of Christ, and the only and true doctrine of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, which is one God, without end. Amen. (2 Nephi 31:18- 21)

And they did not **walk** any more after the performances and ordinances of the law of Moses; but they did **walk** after the commandments which they had received from their Lord and their God, continuing in fasting and prayer, and in meeting together oft both to pray and to hear the word of the Lord. (4 Nephi 1:12)

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should **walk** in them.(Ephesians 2:10)

And now my beloved brethren, I have said these things unto you that I might awaken you to a sense of your duty to God, that ye may **walk** blameless before him, that ye may **walk** after the holy order of God, after which ye have been received. (Alma 7:22)

For strait is the gate, and narrow the **way** that leadeth unto the exaltation and continuation of the lives, and few there be that find it, because ye receive me not in the world neither do ye know me. (D&C 132:22)

THE ORDINANCES ARE THE WAY FOR THE DEAD AS WELL AS FOR THE LIVING.

That thou mayest say to the prisoners: Go forth; to them that sit in darkness: Show yourselves. They shall feed in the **ways**, and their pastures shall be in all high places. (1 Nephi 21:9. See also Isaiah 61)

THE WAY IS LOVE, AND THE LAW OF CONSECRATION WHICH IS FUNCTIONAL CHARITY.

And **walk** in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour. (Ephesians 5:2)

And now, for the sake of these things which I have spoken unto you--that is, for the sake of retaining a remission of your sins from day to day, that ye may **walk** guiltless before God--I would that ye should impart of your substance to the poor, every man according to that which he hath, such as feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and administering to their relief, both spiritually and temporally, according to their wants. (Mosiah 4:26)

THE WAY IS TRUTH. THAT SAME TRUTH WHICH EMBRACES AND IS EMBRACED BY TRUTH (D&C 88 40)

But ye will teach them to **walk** in the **ways** of truth and soberness; ye will teach them to love one another, and to serve one another. (Mosiah 4:15)

AS AN OUTSTRETCHED HAND IS THE SYMBOL OF HOPE, SO BEAUTIFUL FEET ARE A SYMBOL OF THE WAY OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Stand, therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, having on the breastplate of righteousness, and your **feet** shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace, which I have sent mine angels to commit unto you; (D&C 27:16)

Arise and come forth unto me, that ye may thrust your hands into my side, and also that ye may feel the prints of the nails in my hands [hand to hand] and in my **feet**, that ye may know that I am the God of Israel, and the God of the whole earth, and have been slain for the sins of the world. And it came to pass that the multitude went forth, and thrust their hands into his side, and did feel the prints of the nails in his hands and in his **feet**; and this they did do, going forth one by one until they had all gone forth, and did see with their eyes and did feel with their hands, and did know of a surety and did bear record, that it was he, of whom it was written by the prophets, that should come. (3 Nephi 11:14-15)

Hosanna! Blessed be the name of the Most High God! And they did fall down at the **feet** of Jesus, and did worship him. (3 Nephi 11:17)

How beautiful upon the mountains are the **feet** of him that bringeth good tidings; that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good; that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth; (Mosiah 12:21)

And Nephi arose and went forth, and bowed himself before the Lord and did kiss his **feet**. (3 Nephi 11:19)

And they did all, both they who had been healed and they who were whole, bow down at his **feet**, and did worship him; and as many as could come for the multitude did kiss his **feet**, insomuch that they did bathe his **feet** with their tears. (3 Nephi 17:10)

And then shall they say: How beautiful upon the mountains are the **feet** of him that bringeth good tidings unto them, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings unto them of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion: Thy God reigneth! (3 Nephi 20:40)

Now, what do we hear in the gospel which we have received? A voice of gladness! A voice of mercy from heaven; and a voice of truth out of the earth; glad tidings for the dead; a voice of gladness for the living and the dead; glad tidings of great joy. How beautiful upon the mountains are the **feet** of those that bring glad tidings of good things, and that say unto Zion: Behold, thy God reigneth! As the dews of Carmel, so shall the knowledge of God descend upon them! (D&C 128:19)

Behold the wounds which pierced my side, and also the prints of the nails in my hands and **feet**; be faithful, keep my commandments, and ye shall inherit the kingdom of heaven. Amen. (D&C 6:37)

And now, behold, my beloved brethren, I suppose that ye ponder somewhat in your hearts concerning that which ye should do after ye have entered in by the **way**. But, behold, why do ye ponder these things in your hearts? (2 Nephi 32:1)

I also have charity for the Gentiles. But behold, for none of these can I hope except they shall be reconciled unto Christ, and enter into the narrow gate, and **walk** in the strait **path** which leads to life, and continue in the **path** until the end of the day of probation. (2 Nephi 33:9)

And now I come to that faith, of which I said I would speak; and I will tell you the **way** whereby ye may lay hold on every good thing. (Moroni 7:21)

And thou hast beheld in thy youth his glory; wherefore, thou art blessed even as

they unto whom he shall minister in the flesh; for the Spirit is the same, yesterday, today, and forever. And the **way** is prepared from the fall of man, and salvation is free. (2 Nephi 2:4)

And by so doing, the Lord God prepareth the **way** that the residue of men may have faith in Christ, that the Holy Ghost may have place in their hearts, according to the power thereof; and after this manner bringeth to pass the Father, the covenants which he hath made unto the children of men. (Moroni 7:32)

Therefore, cheer up your hearts, and remember that ye are free to act for yourselves--to choose the **way** of everlasting death or the **way** of eternal life. (2 Nephi 10:23)

CONCLUSION:

And this is love, that we **walk** after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should **walk** in it. (2 John 1:6)

And now my brethren, I judge these things of you because of your peaceable **walk** with the children of men. (Moroni 7:4)

In its context that reads:

Wherefore, I would speak unto you that are of the church, that are the peaceable followers of Christ, and that have obtained a sufficient hope by which ye can enter into the rest of the Lord, from this time henceforth until ye shall rest with him in heaven. And now my brethren, I judge these things of you because of your peaceable walk with the children of men. For I remember the word of God, which saith by their works ye shall know them; for if their works be good, then they are good also. (Moroni 7: 3-5)