

ONE THING THOU LACKEST

As I review events of my life I remember questions that I have been asked about my **religious convictions**. Many of the questions asked have caused me to ask my self just what are my religious convictions. So here today I will consider these questions – at least to some extent.

I consider membership in the **Church of Jesus Christ** as among **my greatest privileges** and I further believe that it is one of the **greatest privileges that can come to anyone**. Our question today involves the conviction of all of those that **claim membership** in the **Church of Jesus Christ**.

Membership or entrance into the church has been affected by submission to the **ordinance of baptism by immersion** and there have always been certain conditions attached thereto.

Baptism is a covenant relationship and a full understanding of the terms of the covenant is necessary if we are to become a complete working member within the body. This understanding requires us to be **fully acquainted** with the terms set down in the scriptures accepted by the church. As a member we must have a **working knowledge of the covenant** as outlined in the Bible, the Book of Mormon and the book of Doctrine and Covenants.

As I address this question I ask my self the question that was addressed to the young man concerning his **desire** to be a part of the Kingdom of God. *See Mark 10:19-21.*

If we are to be **partners with God** in the fulfilling of the greatest task that has ever been envisioned in the history of mankind, the building of the kingdom of God on earth, we must continue to ask the question – **What do I lack?** Prior to our entrance into the church we should have received instructions concerning the responsibilities concerning our covenant. Little children that have reached the age of accountability, eight years of age, and desire to become a member of the church are instructed in the requirements of their relationship with God.

One of the basic doctrines of church membership is found in the following scripture concerning entrance into the body of believers.

“All those who humble themselves before God and desire to be baptized, and come forth with broken hearts and contrite spirits, and witness before the church that they have truly repented of all their sins, and are willing to take upon them the name of Jesus Christ, having a determination to serve him to the end, and truly manifest by their works that they received the Spirit of Christ unto the remission of their sins, shall be received by baptism into his church.” *See Doctrine and Covenants 17:7*

The story of **Cornelius who lived in Caesarea**, a devout man and one that feared God was given instructions concerning **what he must do**. He was instructed to send to Joppa and find

an individual by the name of **Simon, whose surname was Peter** and that he would “tell thee **what thou oughtest to do.**” Read the story as found in *Acts 10.*

When I ask myself the question – what do I lack, I find that a study of the two scriptures noted above require that I change my life and devote my life in being a partner with God in the work entrusted to each and every one that has made a covenant with him.

If we think that we have done all that we can to assist our lord in the work that has been entrusted to us we need to go back and read the story of the young man that had kept many of the commandments but when Jesus looked into his life he told this young man, “one thing thou lackest”. *See Mark 10.*

So here today I ask the question – *what do I lack?*

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March 28, 2004(Revisited January 1, 2009)
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