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Book of Mormon Gems of Truth: Lesson 28

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Abstract: Monthly Book of Mormon lessons for adult women (Relief Society). Each month a verse of Book of Mormon scripture is presented with accompanying quotes from General Authorities and writers of the Church.

Visiting Teacher Messages

Book of Mormon Gems of Truth

Lesson 28—" . . . For That Same Spirit Which Doth Possess Your Bodies at the Time That Ye Go Out of This Life, That Same Spirit Will Have Power to Possess Your Body in That Eternal World" (Alma 34:34).

Leone O. Jacobs

For Tuesday, January 4, 1955

Objective: To point out that whatever spirit possesses our bodies in this life will be with us after death.

AFTER ALMA had urged the people to plant the word of God in their hearts, so that they would believe in Christ, Amulek, his companion, expressed deep concern for the welfare of others as is shown by the fervor with which he pleaded with his brethren to rid themselves of sin while they were yet in mortality.

We often hear people say, "Oh, when I get on the other side I will find out what is really true, and then I will do something about it." Somehow they surmise that they will see things differently after death, be able more readily to discern the truth, and have a better opportunity to prove and weigh matters. Then, when they are convinced, they believe they can easily and quickly remedy their habits to conform to the right pattern.

Nothing could be farther from the truth! Amulek tells us that after death we will possess the same spirit, which would infer that we will have the same attitudes and outlook as we had here in mortality.

Men won't know any more when they are dead than when they are living. . . .

They will not understand the truths of the Gospel only by the same process as they understand and comprehend them here (Melvin J. Ballard: *Three Degrees of Glory*, page 25).

If we have been skeptical or indifferent here, those qualities will still be with us in that eternal world. We will retain the same habits and dispositions which comprised our natures here. We shall not miraculously shed any traits of character, any faults or weaknesses by virtue of passing through the portals of death.

Elder Melvin J. Ballard gives us his opinion on this subject in the *Three Degrees of Glory*:

Do not let any of us imagine that we can go down to the grave not having overcome the corruptions of the flesh and then lose in the grave all our sins and evil tendencies. . . . It is much easier to overcome and serve the Lord when both flesh and spirit are combined as one . . . (pp. 14, 25).

This urgent appeal to improve our lives while the opportunity is available and most productive should stir us to action.