

Temple Recommend Question number 4

Here are the first four questions as they were from 1991 to 1995

1. Do you believe in God, the Eternal Father, in his Son, Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost; and do you have a firm testimony of the restored gospel?
2. Do you sustain the President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints as the prophet, seer, and revelator; and do you recognize him as the only person on the earth authorized to exercise all priesthood keys?
3. Do you sustain the other General Authorities and the local authorities of the Church?
4. Do you live the law of chastity?

Now look at what we have now. Why did they make number 4 have so many questions all in one question?

- 1 Do you have faith in and a testimony of God the Eternal Father, His Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost
- 2 Do you have a testimony of the Atonement of Christ and of His role as Savior and Redeemer?
- 3 Do you have a testimony of the restoration of the gospel in these the latter days?
- 4 Do you sustain the President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints as the Prophet, Seer, and Revelator and as the only person on the earth who possesses and is authorized to exercise all priesthood keys? Do you sustain members of the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles as prophets, seers, and revelators? Do you sustain the other General Authorities and local authorities of the Church?
- 5 Do you live the law of chastity?

This fourth question is actually five questions.

1. Do you sustain the President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Yes of course. I sustain all members of the church in all of their callings.

2. as the Prophet, Seer, and Revelator

What is being asked? What is a Prophet? Seer? and Revelator?
How are they different? Do all the terms mean the same thing?

The President of the Church has a duty.

91 And again, the **duty of the President** of the office of the High Priesthood is to preside over the whole church, and to be like unto Moses—

92 Behold, here is wisdom; **yea, to be** a seer, a revelator, a translator, and a prophet, having all the gifts of God which he bestows upon the head of the church.

How will I know if he has fulfilled that duty to be these things? What are the fruits?

Prophets – Prophecy

“What are we to understand by a Prophet? It is his character to predict things that are in the future. I ask what right has any man or set of men or priest or set of priests to say if a man will not do so and he shall be damn’d. Is he not taking upon himself or assuming the character of a Prophet consequently he must either be a true or false Prophet.”
(Words of Joseph Smith, p. 230)

Seers – Gift of Seeing, Translate

“15 And the king said that **a seer is greater than a prophet.**

16 And Ammon said that **a seer is a revelator and a prophet also; and a gift which is greater can no man have,** except he should possess the power of God, which no man can; yet a man may have great power given him from God.

17 **But a seer can know of things which are past, and also of things which are to come, and by them shall all things be revealed, or, rather, shall secret things be made manifest, and hidden things shall come to light, and things which are not known shall be made known by them, and also things shall be made known by them which otherwise could not be known.**” (Mosiah 8:17)

Revelator – Reveal the Words of God.

But unto him that keepeth my commandments I will give the mysteries of my kingdom, and the same shall be in him a well of living water, springing up unto everlasting life.(D&C 63:23)

3. and as the only person on the earth who possesses and is authorized to exercise all priesthood keys?

If he has the keys, what are they? And where did he get them? Joseph still has the keys.

Thus saith the Lord, verily, verily I say unto you my son [Joseph Smith], thy sins are forgiven thee, according to thy petition, for thy prayers and the prayers of thy brethren have come up into my ears. Therefore, thou art blessed from henceforth that bear the keys of the kingdom given unto you; which kingdom is coming forth for the last time. Verily I say unto you, the **keys of this kingdom shall never be taken from you, while thou art in the world, neither in the world to come**; (D&C 90:1-3)

Brigham never claimed to have keys or be set apart.

Who ordained me to be First President of this Church on earth? I answer, It is the choice of this people, and that is sufficient. (April 7, 1852 discourse -- Millennial Star, Vol. 16, p. 442)

Joseph F. Smith was "ordained" by John Smith the presiding patriarch.

"At the reorganization meeting, President Smith called upon his brother John Smith, the patriarch, to set him apart as president of the Church. It was the first time the Patriarch to the Church had ever been involved in a reorganization meeting. A natural question was: Did the patriarch have the authority to set a president apart?" (Steven H. Heath, Notes on Apostolic Succession, Dialogue vol. 20, no 2, p. 51)

4. Do you sustain members of the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles as prophets, seers, and revelators?

Orson Pratt would not be able to answer this question in the affirmative.

This failure to realize all the blessings and powers of the Priesthood does not apply to the elders and lesser Priesthood only; but it applies to the higher quorums, and comes home to ourselves, who are Apostles of Jesus Christ. We are presented before the Church, and sustained as prophets, seers and revelators, and we have received oftentimes the gift of prophecy and revelation, and have received many great and glorious gifts. **But have we received the fullness of the blessings to which we are entitled? No, we have not. Who, among the Apostles have become seers, and enjoy all the gifts and powers pertaining to that calling?** Still it is our privilege **to become** prophets, seers and revelators, for these blessings were promised us through the Prophet Joseph, in the year 1836. Now **I don't think many of us have attained to these gifts**, but it is not the fault of the Almighty, but the fault is in ourselves. And can they be realized by us? Certainly they can, if we are faithful in seeking for them. (Orson Pratt, JD 25:145.)

The whole quorum of the Twelve did not feel that those terms applied to anyone but the president of the church in 1949. George Albert Smith asked the Quorum of the Twelve whether the Church Patriarch should continue to be sustained as a prophet, seer and revelator. They studied the question and replied:

The fact that the Patriarch is sustained in conferences as "Prophet, Seer, and Revelator," together with members of the First Presidency and the Council of the Twelve, has received our attention. While **we confess our inability to understand fully the meaning of these traditional terms as applied to anyone other than the President of the Church** (Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, Letter to George Albert Smith June 22, 1949 BYU Special Collections BX 8651.212 .m668 2010 1910-1951, Pages 454-455)

5. Do you sustain the other General Authorities and local authorities of the Church?

Of course. This is the same answer as the first question.

During a recent Youth Conference (Jan. 23, 2016 – Bellevue, Washington) Four pre-selected youth were allowed to ask a question.

One youth Asked:

What should we pray for to receive the same testimony and/or conversion that Alma the Younger experienced, for our friend who are not members?

Elder Oaks answers:

I've never had an experience like that and I don't know anyone among the 1st Presidency or Quorum of the 12 who've had that kind of experience. Yet every one of us knows of a certainty the things that Alma knew. But it's just that unless the Lord chooses to do it another way, as he sometimes does; for millions and millions of His children the testimony settles upon us gradually. Like so much dust on the windowsill or so much dew on the grass. One day you didn't have it and another day you did and you don't know which day it happened. That's the way I got my testimony. And then I knew it was true when it continued to grow.