



The core tenets of Mormonism revolve around what they term "The Plan of Salvation" or "Plan of Happiness." This divine plan illustrates God's purpose and expectations for His children on Earth and extends into eternity. A unique aspect is their belief in pre-mortal life where all individuals existed as spiritual beings before coming to Earth; earthly life which serves a period for moral testing and learning; and afterlife where souls progress towards perfection depending on how they lived their mortal lives.

Family unity, moral rectitude, baptism by immersion for remission of sins, conferring priesthood authority through laying on hands are some other significant principles within LDS Church doctrine.

## **Mormon Concept of Afterlife: The Three Kingdoms of Glory**

The Terrestrial Kingdom serves as an intermediary level for individuals who led honorable lives but didn't fully accept Gospel principles or weren't baptized in their earthly life. It is also reserved for Latter-Day Saints who failed to live by church laws despite knowing them. There's the Telestial Kingdom which aligns closest with conventional ideas of heaven in mainstream Christianity - it accommodates individuals who chose evil over good in their mortal lives but still deserve some measure of glory after divine judgment and punishment. These stratifications highlight a critical facet of Mormon doctrine that emphasizes varying degrees of reward based on one's righteousness during their mortal life.

## **The Role of Jesus Christ in Salvation: Atonement and Resurrection**

The resurrection of Jesus is seen as a pivotal event that guarantees our own eventual resurrection. It attests to life after death where we can dwell with God if we adhere faithfully to Christ's teachings. Therefore, within Mormonism, Christ's role extends beyond salvation; He serves as an exemplar who demonstrated through His life how one should live to attain exaltation in the Celestial Kingdom post-resurrection - embodying attributes such as charity, obedience, sacrifice among others. In essence, The Savior's atonement ensures immortality while adherence to His teachings enhances chances for eternal life (Godhood) in Mormon eschatology.

## **Mormon Perspective on Hell: Outer Darkness Explanation**

Outer Darkness in LDS doctrine represents complete separation from God and His glory. It's important to note that according to Mormon belief, very few people would suffer such a fate. Only those who have had explicit knowledge of God's truth (typically through receiving the restored gospel) and then reject it along with Christ's atonement may qualify for this punishment. The Prophet Joseph Smith taught that these Sons of Perdition 'know they're rebelling against God', thus marking them out for this specific destiny.

# The Doctrine of Exaltation: Becoming Like God

This teaching stems from a key phrase often quoted by Latter-Day Saints: "As man now is, God once was; as God now is, man may be." To attain this godlike state or 'Godhood,' individuals must adhere to certain prerequisites including receiving necessary ordinances such as baptism and marriage sealing, keeping commandments faithfully during mortal life among others. Importantly though, it emphasizes progression rather than inherent divinity - an eternal increase in knowledge, power and capacity for love just like Heavenly Father himself.

## Criticisms and Debates: Analysis of Mormon Views on Afterlife

Conversely, others view these distinct beliefs as a strength rather than a weakness—contributing to the richness and diversity within Christianity. They admire how Mormonism addresses questions concerning those who never heard or accepted Gospel principles during their earthly life—a topic often glossed over by other denominations. The debate surrounding Mormon views on afterlife underscores broader discussions about religious plurality and theological interpretation within modern [Christianity](#).